

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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Vol V No 018

25 January 1980

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COMMISSION FOR PALESTINE ISSUES STATEMENT ON SOVIET, U.S. POLICY

JN250810 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Jan 80 p 16 JN

[Text] Amman--The Higher Arab Commission for Palestine issued a statement yesterday denouncing the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and calling for the immediate withdrawal of the Soviet troops in order to give the Afghan people the opportunity to determine their own fate.

The statement also denounced the U.S. policy in the region and its support for the Israeli presence in the occupied Arab territories.

The statement warned the Arab nation of the threats in U.S. policy, which intends to impose U.S. hegemony over the region's peoples.

The statement also denounced the exchange of diplomatic representation between Egypt and Israel, adding that such a step betrays Arab Palestine and is a deviation from Arabism and Islam.

The statement called on the Egyptian people to work to return Egypt to the Arab fold, where it will occupy its previous position in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

FARUQ QADDAUMI DISCUSSES PLO'S 'POSITIVE NEUTRALITY,' OTHER ISSUES

NC241016 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 21-27 Jan 80 pp 18-25 NC

[Text of "private interview" granted to Claude Khoury by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, "last week" in Beirut]

[Text] [Question] Did the conference of the Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front foreign ministers succeed in ironing out the differences between the PLO and Libya?

[Answer] The Afghanistan events and regional developments overshadowed the dispute between the PLO and Libya, and the matter was not discussed in detail. The foreign ministers of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front states did bring it up in a closed session, but it was not discussed in detail.

[Question] Can we say that the dispute is over?

[Answer] The dispute stands. The important thing is for Libya to stop forming "revolutionary committees" and refrain from violating the legitimacy of the PLO. The PLO representative (in Libya) must resume his activities, with full prerogatives.

[Question] Do you have any idea when that might happen?

[Answer] It has been suggested that a summit conference of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front be held to discuss the matter, but no date has been set yet.

[Question] You have called for the postponement of the Islamic conference on Afghanistan, an amendment of its agenda and a change of venue from Pakistan to Saudi Arabia. What would happen if those demands were not met? Would the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front boycott the conference?

[Answer] Our major purpose in calling for a postponement of the conference was to give all members of the Islamic Conference ample opportunity to think the matter over.

Regarding the agenda, it is essential that the deliberations at the conference not be limited to one subject. There are other subjects--more important subjects--to be discussed. We don't want the Afghanistan events to eclipse the Arab-Israeli conflict or the developments in Iran relating to the presence of the (American) hostages there.

The United States is trying to drag the region back to the 1950's and the days of military alliances. It is trying to create a force for quick intervention in the region, to hamper the national liberation movement in the Middle East.

If the secretary general fails to find another date for the conference, we will attend anyway, but it is our hope that the conference will be postponed. January 26, the date now set for the conference, coincides with the date on which the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel will go through. That day should be a day of protest among the Arab and Islamic masses over the normalization of relations between the Zionist entity and the Egyptian regime, not a day for the discussion of a secondary matter.

As for the venue, Pakistan, unfortunately, is not the natural place to hold this conference.

There are many matters that must be taken into consideration in relations to this conference. The conference, as I said, must discuss all subjects, not only the Afghanistan issue. Afghanistan is a communist country first and foremost, and we find all this commotion over the Afghan issue very strange. Furthermore, the Afghan Government has not requested an Islamic conference, and such a conference would be considered an intervention in its internal affairs.

[Question] When you say you would attend the conference whether it is held on schedule in Pakistan or not, are you talking for the PLO or the Steadfastness Front in general?

[Answer] We would rather not have the conference held in Pakistan. Holding it there would anger India and other friendly states, especially because the conference has been called to discuss the Afghanistan issue.

[Question] Can it be said that the Camp David accords united the Arabs against American policy in the Middle East, and that the Afghanistan developments have divided them again?

[Answer] I cannot say that the Arabs have been divided by the Afghanistan issue. They may have differing views regarding the Afghanistan developments, but that does not mean that they have been divided on the Camp David issue. They remain united in their opposition to the Camp David agreement and the Egyptian-Israeli agreements, and they are fighting them and fighting their consequences.

If the Arabs have differing evaluations of the Afghanistan developments, that does not mean that Arab solidarity has been damaged--absolutely not. On the contrary, everyone may have his own views on marginal developments like these; it is not at all necessary for all Arabs to have identical views on such things. But the basic question is the Palestine issue, the Middle East issue, and on that we are all in total agreement.

The Arabs have not been divided at all. They hold different views on the Afghanistan issue: Some have gone overboard in their positions, other have stayed neutral, and some are of the opinion that the action taken by our friend, the Soviet Union, cannot be regarded as intervention of the sort that some countries appear to see it as.

We all know that the Afghan regime is a communist regime, and that the regime of Hafizollah Amin was a communist regime. So why all the commotion on the part of the imperialist states on this matter? Why are some of the Arabs raising such a fuss over Afghanistan when they did nothing over the Idi Amin issue--in which an Islamic state was invaded by another state? Furthermore, there are communists--Cubans--in Angola, Mozambique and Ethiopia. Why haven't the imperialist countries been angered by those cases, and why are they now so incensed by the developments in Afghanistan, which, as I said, has always had a communist regime?

The reason is that they are trying to provide cover for Middle Eastern developments; for the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel; for the Iranian crisis.

[Question] So you think the reaction to the Soviet action in Afghanistan is a deliberate exaggeration?

[Answer] We definitely believe that the gravity of the situation has been grossly exaggerated. Matters should be evaluated realistically, on the political and security levels, in the region.

But it appears that America wants to create alliances in the Arab region, so it is presenting itself as the champion of Islam. And U.S. National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski, it seems, is the shiekh of Islam at this stage.

[Question] U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance is talking about the need to concentrate on the Palestinian issue to secure more Arab cooperation in resisting the Soviet tide in the region. Do you believe him, and do you think such "concentration" could produce results?

[Answer] To begin with, we have no confidence in American policy in this region. It is a policy of deviousness and lies. And it is, without doubt, aimed at adding another link to the chain of the Camp David conspiracy.

We regard all statements issued by American officials with great suspicion. We see them against the background of the call to create alliances between Israel, Egypt and Oman. The British foreign secretary visited Oman recently for this purpose. Meanwhile, the American defense secretary, Harold Brown, visited China. And they are trying to arouse the Islamic states against communism, to instigate an Islamic-communist conflict--which is a very grave matter indeed, because there is no conflict between Islam and communism. True Islam is the Islam which preserves the independence of the Islamic countries and adopts a stance of positive neutrality. True Islam is the Islam which focuses its efforts on the Palestine issue. It is Jerusalem, not Afghanistan, that is the basic issue for all Moslems, and for Christians too. When they liberate Jerusalem, we can then say that they care about Islam.

But the fact is that they are not true Moslems. Those people who are calling for help for Afghanistan are American agents and friends of the United States.

[Question] Who is an American agent, for instance?

[Answer] Oman. Oman is calling for alliances. This is a grave matter, because it would constitute a violation of the independence of the Arab states.

[Question] What is your attitude toward Saudi Arabia?

[Answer] Saudi Arabia is a friend of the United States. But we have heard no calls from it similar to Oman's.

[Question] So you don't consider Saudi Arabia an American agent?

[Answer] We know it is a friend of the United States of America. Everyone is entitled to his own views on this matter, although we believe that we, as Arabs, should not exaggerate this. The call that was issued from Oman--it is a call issuing from an American agent; it is a call for the violation of the independence of the Arab states. Everyone is entitled to his own views on the Afghanistan issue, but to come out with calls such as those that have issued from Oman and Egypt--for the Egyptian regime has, unfortunately, also called for the creation of alliances and has engaged in military exercises with American troops--that is the behavior of American agents. The behavior of Oman and Egypt is the behavior of American agents.

[Question] Washington is calling for a Jordan-Saudi Arabia-Morocco "security belt" and the Steadfastness Front is calling for stronger ties with the Soviet Union. Are we about to witness the division of the Arab world into two camps--a pro-American camp led by Egypt and Israel and a pro-Soviet camp grouping the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front states?

[Answer] Well, if you consider Israel an Arab state....That is not the case, although the Egyptian regime wants it to become an Arab state which intervenes in the Arab countries' internal affairs. This is the behavior of an American agent, an act of treason against the Arab cause.

But as I told you, Arab differences over issues of secondary importance do not by any means imply the collapse of Arab solidarity. There can be differing views within one country, one party, on side issues. But where strategic issues are concerned, we are in agreement with all the Arab countries--with the exception of the hireling states: Oman and the Egyptian regime.

[Question] Israeli Premier Menahem Begin is against the Islamic revolutionaries in Iran, and you support them. You are against the Moslem rebels in Afghanistan, and Begin supports them. It's a strange situation, isn't it?

[Answer] We can't say that we support or oppose anyone. We have no desire to interfere in the internal affairs of any state, be it Moslem or Arab. We are trying to adopt a position of positive neutrality, without interfering in the internal affairs of this or that state.

We view matters from the perspective of our own interests. Our view is that the campaign launched by imperialist quarters--(on the Afghan issue)--is deceitful and exaggerated. We are in principle against the interference of a state in the affairs of another state. We have condemned the interference of some states in Zaire. When France, unfortunately, intervened so blatantly in Central America, no one made the slightest sound. And the Islamic states made no move at all when Idi Amin, whose state is an Islamic one, was ousted. So why this commotion now over Afghanistan, a communist state which has been cooperating with the Soviet Union? That is the question.

But as I said, we are in principle opposed to any intervention. We are a member of the non-aligned nations and we don't want intervention to be the dominant rule; we want independence for all states. If we have friends, it does not mean that we have no differences of view with them.

[Question] You say you are in principle against any intervention on the part of a state in the affairs of another state. The Soviet Union has interfered in the affairs of Afghanistan. Is that acceptable?

[Answer] That is a matter that concerns the people and Government of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. We have absolutely no desire to interfere in these matters, and we hope this issue will be settled by the Government of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union in the manner which they regard as being appropriate.

[Question] Do your positions on Iran and Afghanistan have any effect on your relations with Iraq, which is at odds with Tehran and opposed to the Soviet intervention in Kabul?

[Answer] We have firm ties of brotherhood with Iraq, and as I said, although we may differ on certain matters, we do not differ on the general strategy--the strategy defined at the Arab summits in Baghdad and Tunis. Our relations are too strong to be affected by tactical positions.

[Questions] Many expect the developments in Iran and Afghanistan to influence Jordan's attitude toward Middle Eastern settlement efforts. Israel has said that there are indications that King Husayn will join the autonomy talks. What are your views on this matter?

[Answer] We must not draw our information from hostile sources. The source in this case is the enemy. It would promote the interests of Zionist sources to damage relations between the Arab countries.

I don't believe Jordan will accept the Camp David agreements. It is still opposing those agreements and their consequences, standing firmly by its brothers in Syria and the PLO in their efforts to bring those agreements down.

[Question] Do you have anything to say about Begin's recent declaration that the rise of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza would mean the rise of "another Afghanistan" in the region?

[Answer] The terrorist Begin is known for his expansionist policies. He needs as many justifications as he can get for the annexation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which is the announced aim of the Begin government and the Likud coalition. He has also said that the Golan Heights are part of Israel's territory. Begin has made no effort to conceal those expansionist designs from world public opinion, and this is evidence enough of the fact that he does not want peace; he wants more tension, to justify the aggression which he plans to undertake in the future.

[Question] When a Palestinian state is established, will its relations with the Soviet Union be stronger than its relations with the United States?

[Answer] That state will have relations with all its friends. There is no question of us damaging our relations with our friends. But ours will be a non-aligned nation, a nation which preserves its unity and its orientation--that orientation being toward cooperation with all Arab states. That will be the general framework of the state.

It can never be a communist state, even though we will preserve our relations with the Soviet Union, with all the socialist regimes, and with the non-aligned states.

[Question] What kind of relations will that state have with the United States?

[Answer] That depends on how the United States treats us.

[Question] The PLO stood by the Soviet Union on Afghanistan; Syria abstained when the matter came to a vote in the General Assembly; Lebanon voted against the Soviets. How do you expect this divergence to affect Lebanese-Syrian-Palestinian relations in Lebanon?

[Answer] We will not allow these differences of view to have negative effects in Lebanon, where cooperation must dominate relations between the legal authorities, Syria and the PLO.

Furthermore, our position and Syria's are the same. As I told you, we did not support the Soviet action and we did not condemn it. We said the matter was the concern of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. We did not support--I want to make this very clear--but we condemned the campaign against the Soviet Union, the rabid campaign which is aimed at overshadowing the Arab-Israeli conflict, overshadowing Egypt's normalization of relations with the Zionist entity, and goading the Arab and Islamic states into forming new alliances after the collapse of the CENTO alliance.

That is what we said. We did not say we supported the Soviet action. Such positions should have no negative effects on relations between Lebanon, the PLO and Syria. Quite the contrary.

But what we do expect is action on the part of Israel, after Begin's recent statements, which are obviously aimed at arousing European and American public opinion against the PLO and Syria. He has said that he is against the establishment of a state of Palestine because it would be anti-American. He has said that the Golan is part of Israel and that Syria is preparing an attack on Israel. These statements are meant to provoke public opinion against the PLO, and against Syria especially.

[Question] Are you expecting a war?

[Answer] It's possible. There are indications that Israel is preparing for an attack on Syria or south Lebanon. We are expecting military developments.

[Question] What kind of military developments?

[Answer] We cannot predict exactly what kind of aggression is approaching, but Begin's statements indicate clearly that it's coming.

[Question] Saudi Crown Prince Fahd stated recently that President Carter had told him he would recognize the PLO if the PLO recognized an amended Resolution 242. Did he inform you of this?

[Answer] No. We have no knowledge about these statements. The United States has for years been trying to gain the PLO's recognition of Resolution 242, but we have on several occasions stated that we will never recognize that resolution because our acceptance of it would imply acceptance of the position that our cause is a refugee issue, and not an issue of a people. There must be a new Security Council resolution clearly supporting the Palestinian people's national rights.

[Question] You would reject Resolution 242 even if it were amended?

[Answer] We want a new resolution. There can be no amendment of Resolution 242, because amendments are only possible when the resolution is being considered. We want a new resolution on the Palestinians' national rights, because, as I told you, we don't trust American policy. The Americans say one thing one day and change it the next. [paragraph continues]

We saw what happened with the joint American-Soviet statement: The United States dropped the commitment it made in that statement four days after the statement was signed--on October 5, 1977, when a joint American-Israeli statement was issued releasing Israel from any obligation to accept the earlier communique.

[Question] What progress has been made in the efforts to amend Resolution 242?

[Answer] There are no such efforts at this time.

[Question] What will your reaction be to the normalization of Egyptian-Israeli relations on January 26?

[Answer] We have called on the Arab people to take any measures they deem appropriate to denounce and condemn the move.

[Question] What do you think is behind As-Sadat's proposal to apply the "autonomy" plan in Gaza first?

[Answer] As-Sadat, in your view, is constantly retreating, giving in to everything Israel wants in Gaza and the West Bank. We categorically reject any "autonomy" in Gaza. This is an attempt to decimate the unity of the occupied territories and the solidarity of our people in the occupied territories; and it is an attempt to spread the impression that it is possible to establish "self-rule" in small part of the Palestinian territory.

[Question] PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat has predicted that the Arabs and Palestinians will use oil and petrodollars in their struggle against Israel in the 1980's. Is this still possible, with the oil producing countries engrossed in what is happening in Afghanistan and Pakistan?

[Answer] They will not necessarily be engrossed in that very long. This is just one issue, but there are more important issues. The Arab-Israeli conflict is a more important issue. What is happening in Iran and the American attempt to attack the Iranian Revolution is another issue. Public opinion's attention may be monopolized by Afghanistan for a while, but that won't last for long.

The United States has tried to delude international public opinion with an image of itself as a peace-loving country. But it has been established that the United States does not want peace. It has deployed Pershing missiles in Europe, thus posing a threat to the socialist states, for instance.

We believe there will be a succession of such developments--not in one region, but in several. Just as there were developments in Africa relating to Ethiopia, Angola and others, developments have now started in Asia.

Afghanistan is a friend of the Soviet Union, and has been since the days of Mohammad Daud. It was Hafizollah Amin who asked for Soviet forces in Afghanistan. Furthermore, Afghanistan borders on the Soviet Union. When the Soviet Union deployed missiles in Cuba, we saw how Kennedy surrounded the island with warships and covered it with warplanes--all in the name of American security.

In international relations, especially relations between the two superpowers, there are things we are ignorant of. We must therefore not be hasty and involve ourselves in such conflicts. But at the same time, we must not wrong our friends in any circumstances.

[Question] Last summer, the U.S. State Department said that there was a plan to blow up a tanker in the Hormuz Straits and block that vital oil route. Was the reference to the PLO, and was the PLO considering such a plan?

[Answer] We don't want to be involved in any international conflict. We want to concentrate our attention, our political efforts and our military struggle in our occupied territories. We have absolutely no wish to get involved in other affairs. That has been the policy of the PLO since its inception.

PLO'S UN ENEMY ON CAMP DAVID, KREISKY, FOREIGN TIES

LD240901 London AD-DUSTOR in Arabic 21-27 Jan 80 pp 21, 22 LD

[Interview given to AD-DUSTOR by PLO UN representative Dahbi at-Tarazi--date not given]

[Excerpts] New York--[Question] The news of Iran has dominated all other subjects before the UN General Assembly. How has this affected the Palestinian cause and the other issues related to the Middle East?

[Answer] What you have just said is, in fact, true. This domination you have mentioned has only had an effect in the news field. The course of the discussions was not affected by the events in Iran. The speakers were able to present their arguments in an objective manner. For example, during the debate on the Arab group's request to annul the Israeli decision to deport Nabulus Mayor Bassan Ash-Shak'ah, the overwhelming majority on the special political committee responded favorably. The committee approved a request to Israel to rescind the deportation decision. It was obvious that Israel's friends had tried to evade discussing the subject by resorting to debating procedures and not the crux of the matter, but the overwhelming majority insisted on debating the subject and asked that the resolution be referred to the General Assembly, which passed it unanimously with the exception of Israel.

This in itself proves that events in Iran did not affect the substance of the subject, even though they dominated the news field.

[Question] Beside the resolution you have mentioned, the General Assembly has issued no effective resolutions that can constitute a basis for more progressive stands.

[Answer] That is not true. The UN General Assembly's approval of the declaration that the Camp David agreement is void constitutes a new element and procedure by the General Assembly. In fact, Egypt tried to prevent the General Assembly from broaching the legality of agreements concluded between sovereign states by saying that states have the right, in exercising their sovereignty, to reach agreements among themselves. But the General Assembly clung to its stand on the basis that when they concluded the Camp David agreement, Egypt and Israel infringed the Palestinian people's rights, violated the UN resolutions and denied the presence of a recognized representative of the Palestinian people--the PLO. Therefore, the General Assembly adhered to its right to declare the Camp David agreement null and void.

[Question] The PLO is being accused of failing in its policy to achieve its aims in practice and of therefore repeatedly concentrating on peripheral matters such as Camp David and Egypt. That was apparent at the previous General Assembly session, where no practical step was made in the direction of a just solution to the issue.

[Answer] First of all, the suggestion that Camp David is a peripheral issue is rejected, because Camp David represents a policy and an aim designed to disavow and deny the Palestinian people's rights and the PLO. But the General Assembly reasserted these rights and representation. Perhaps it will be useful to mention here that, whereas 97 states voted in favor of these rights and PLO representation last year, this figure rose to 117 states this year.

Meanwhile, we must ask what the United Nations has to offer us. We are aware that the United Nations has no executive powers and that the most we can get at the United Nations is moral support and more moral support. That is what we have achieved.

[Question] Austrian Chancellor Kreisky presented a proposal during this session. The Austrian mission translated the proposal into a working paper suggesting exploratory discussions by the Palestinians and Israel. Why did you not take up that paper?

[Answer] It must be said that, at the United Nations, draft resolutions are studied and debated before they are officially submitted for debate. Chancellor Kreisky's gesture is praiseworthy. But his procedure practically disregards or ignores all the foundations established by the General Assembly for reaching a comprehensive solution conducive to a just peace in the area. For example, Chancellor Kreisky forgot the need for total withdrawal by the Israeli occupation forces from all the occupied Arab territories before embarking on discussing the next step. In fact, he forgot that withdrawal, or at least a declaration by Israel of its intention to withdraw, is a must for an understanding to be reached. Withdrawal cannot under any circumstances be subject to negotiations, because it has already been decided and must be carried out.

Furthermore, the proposal disregarded all the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people--the rights which the United Nations has often acknowledged and asserted.

The proposal was formulated in a manner that raised questions about the way in which it is to be implemented. It is known at the United Nations that any proposal must include a framework of action--a so-called mechanism. The proposal left this out--a matter which leaves the process of finding a solution in a state of ambiguity and confusion.

I believe that the proposal and the idea behind it started from scratch and disregarded all the principles and foundations established by the United Nations for reaching a comprehensive, just solution.

[Question] The fact that cannot be ignored is that Kreisky took the initiative which led to the attainment of diplomatic gains for the Palestinian issue in Europe.

[Answer] This could be true to a certain extent, but it is not the whole story, because what opened the doors to west Europe for us was primarily, our determination and continued struggle. We must not forget that our relationship with France began before our contact with Austria.

[Question] How are relations now between the PLO and the European states in general and Kreisky in particular?

[Answer] There is direct and official contact at the level of foreign ministers between the PLO and France, Belgium, Italy and Spain. There are contacts, not yet official, with Britain. We are in the process of establishing contacts with West Germany, Japan and some Scandinavian countries. These relations are growing. As for the contacts with the Austrian Government, it is known that Austria recognized the PLO only weeks ago. It is now in the process of developing and reinforcing these relations.

[Question] The relationship between the PLO and the Libyan Jamahiriyah deteriorated during the past few weeks. What are the dimensions of the dispute, and what are the reasons for the crisis?

[Answer] We deal with problems that are directly connected with our work at the United Nations. So far, the Libyan UN representative has been maintaining the Libyan attitude based on supporting the PLO in all matters related to the Palestine cause.

[Question] What are you now doing to strengthen relations between the PLO and American blacks? Are you pursuing any specific program?

[Answer] Regarding our relations with the American blacks, we are still studying the best ways and means to strengthen these relations in the interest of the two sides.

RAFIQ AN-NATSAH, SA'UD AL-FAYSAL TALKS ON PLO, ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

LD241631 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Jan 80 p 1 LD

[Yunis Muhammad Isahq report]

[Text] Jidda, ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau--PLO representative in Saudi Arabia, Rafiq an-Natsah, has told ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that his recent meeting with Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal dealt with the situation related to the Palestinian issue as well as with the current situation in the Arab and Islamic world.

He added that Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal had told him that the Saudi Arabian kingdom's attitude toward the Palestinian cause--an attitude of constant and continuous support--has not changed and that Saudi Arabia will continue to adopt an attitude of clear support for the Palestinian revolution and to provide the necessary capabilities to buttress the Palestinian cause, especially since Saudi Arabia regards this issue as its own primary cause.

An-Natsah explained that Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal had expressed the Saudi Arabian kingdom's ardent desire that the PLO attend the Islamic states foreign ministers conference and expressed the hope that the Muslims will adopt a unified stand on all issues so that they will face their enemies with a solid stand confirming their solidarity and unity. He also expressed his hope that the Muslims' resolutions will be based on Arab and Islamic interests and impartial to east or west.

He added: Consultations are continuing between Saudi and Palestinian officials to discuss all aspects of the issue and current developments.

BAHRAIN

DELEGATION TO ISLAMABAD CONFERENCE PREPARES FOR DEPARTURE

NO240928 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0955 GMT 24 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Manama, 24 January--Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah will leave Manama tomorrow for Islamabad to head his country's delegation to the extraordinary conference of the Islamic states foreign ministers to be held there Saturday. It is known that the conference will discuss the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan's domestic affairs and will draw up a visualization of a unified Islamic policy.

KUWAIT

AL-ANBA' CRITICIZES CARTER'S REMARKS ON GULF

ID250950 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0717 GMT 25 Jan 80 ID

[Excerpt] Kuwait--AL-ANBA' today strongly criticized the warning by the American President, Jimmy Carter, that the United States would use "military force if necessary to protect the Arabian Gulf region." The paper turned down this American offer with thanks. Addressing President Carter, the paper said: "The last thing we want is protection and the last thing we request is your nuclear umbrella."

In this connection AL-ANBA' pointed to American attempts to perfect a "cordon" around the Gulf region whereby the oil states would have no friends other than the United States and no currency other than the dollar.

It said that the American plan is aimed at compelling those who earlier refused to yield to Washington's demands for setting up a Gulf pact to request guardianship under the clamor of artificial fear and the threat of the Soviet march for oil.

FOREIGN MINISTER LINKS SOVIET AFGHAN POLICY WITH ISRAELI EXPANSION

ID241151 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0727 GMT 24 Jan 80 ID

[Excerpts] Kuwait--Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ash-Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah has stressed the link between the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan and the Israeli occupation of Arab territories.

In a statement published by local newspapers Ash-Shaykh as-Sabah said the question of the 1967 Israeli occupation of the Arab territories, including Jerusalem, with the help of the United States was no less serious than the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. He added that Kuwait will submit this point to the Islamic foreign ministers conference in Islamabad on Saturday.

He said he will stress to the conference participants that the Israelis occupied the Arab territories, including Jerusalem, with the help of the United States and "that this was rejected and condemned and must be rectified;" the Soviet Union invaded the territory of Afghanistan "and this is also rejected and we condemned it at the time."

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The senior Kuwaiti official warned that all these circumstances constitute a great threat to the region. "The great powers are trying to gamble with the destinies of the region, [words indistinct] interest and nerves whereby the small states enact the bewildering scenarios written and produced by the great [powers]."

He said the Arabs must lay down a strategy stemming from their interests to confront these circumstances, developments and schemes.

QATAR

DELEGATION TO ISLAMIC MINISTERS CONFERENCE LISTED

NO240927 Doha QNA in Arabic 0815 GMT 24 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Doha, 24 January--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani will leave for Islamabad tomorrow heading the Qatari delegation to the urgent extraordinary session of the Islamic states foreign ministers conference which will begin there Saturday.

The delegation includes Qatari ambassador to Saudi Arabia 'Abd al-'Aziz Sa'd Al Sa'd, and Qatari ambassador to Pakistan 'Ali Ahmad al-Ansari. The delegation also includes Foreign Ministry First Secretaries 'Ali Ahmad al-Sulayti and Majid Qhanim al-'Ali, head of the Office of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs 'Atiq Nasir al-Badr and Foreign Ministry Protocol Department official Hasan 'Abdallah Ziyad.

Leaves for Islamabad

NO251105 Doha QNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Doha, 25 January--Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani left for Islamabad today, leading his country's delegation to the Islamic states foreign ministers conference, due to begin in the Pakistani capital Saturday to discuss the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The Qatari delegation includes Qatari ambassador to Saudi Arabia 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Sa'd Al Sa'd, Qatari ambassador in Islamabad Ahmad ibn 'Ali al-Ansari and ambassador at the Foreign Ministry Mubarak ibn Nasir al-Kuwari.

Before leaving Doha, the minister expressed the hope that the conference would result in achieving what is good for the Islamic nation, enabling it to confront the dangers facing it.

SAUDI ARABIA

PRINCE SA'UD COMMENTS ON UPCOMING ISLAMABAD CONFERENCE

ID241205 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 24 Jan 80 ID

[Text] Jidda--His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, expressed optimism concerning the results that the conference of Islamic foreign ministers will achieve at its meeting in Islamabad on Saturday in discussing developments relating to the Soviet communist invasion of Afghanistan.

His highness said the conference will achieve the aims for which it is being convened after the majority of the member states have agreed to attend the conference and are determined to confront this grave development in the region.

In a statement to IQRA magazine published today, his highness the foreign minister explained that during his recent tour he sensed a complete understanding and identity of views about the situation in Afghanistan.

His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that Soviet aggression against the Afghan people has revealed the designs and ambitions of the Soviet Union and its expansionist plans aimed at exercising control over the Islamic region and its strategic potentials.

His highness once again affirmed that the kingdom's stand is based on backing and supporting all Arab and Islamic states in all circumstances and (reaffirmed) its total readiness to render all that the responsibility of confronting the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan demands. His highness added that the kingdom's policy stems from a basic principle based on the conviction that the unity of the Arab ranks is a fateful issue in securing the achievement of the nation's aims, security and stability and in resisting aggressive ambitions and designs.

MINISTER KNOWLEDGE OF JORDAN-ISRAEL RECONCILIATION

LD241225 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh--Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani has denied that the kingdom is aware of any steps towards a gradual reconciliation between Jordan and Israel. He said that reports which speak of Riyadh's approval of such a step are totally unfounded. His excellency recalled King Husayn's recent statement that there has been change in Jordan's standpoints. His excellency also emphasized that the Palestinians living in the kingdom are not being harassed and live normally among friends and relatives and that everything that had been rumored to the contrary is unfounded. His highness said the kingdom's attitude towards the Palestinians and the Palestinian issue is a firm principled stand stemming from our faith.

These assurances by his excellency categorically deny what the magazine 'AKHIR SA'AH published about the sufferings of Palestinians in the kingdom and Kuwait.

Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani described the publication of such reports as a continuation of cheap campaigns of intrigue which benefit no one but the enemies of the nation. His excellency expressed his confidence that his Arab compatriots are alert to and aware of the dimensions of such intrigues and reject the dissemination of trivia.

UAE

OIL MINISTER: PRICES WILL GO UP BEFORE MIDYEAR

NC241041 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0835 GMT 24 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 January--UAE Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Dr Nani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah has affirmed that oil prices will inevitably increase before midyear. He said his country will exert great efforts to persuade the OPEC member states to convene an extraordinary conference in late March or April, aimed at unifying the bases of oil prices and overcoming the turbulence and chaos prevailing in the oil market.

In an interview published in the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-FAJR today, Dr al-'Utaybah said the state of turbulence and chaos in the oil market and the resultant imbalance between supply and demand is related to the possibility of increased oil prices. He said: The lack of stability and balance in the oil market will be a highly influential factor as far as prices are concerned. This factor will compel the oil-producing countries, whether within or outside OPEC, to raise their oil prices. The increase in prices will inevitably vary from one state to another and will occur at different times.

Dr Muni' Sa'id al-'Utaybah noted that the oil-consuming states' contribution to developing alternative sources of energy has not been effective and so far has brought no encouraging results. This is due to the fact that the cost of developing these alternatives is more than double the cost of buying oil.

He expressed the belief that raising the oil prices gradually and consistently will induce the consuming states to more quickly develop alternative sources and will reduce the wasteful consumption of fuel oil.

Dr al-'Utaybah affirmed that OPEC is eager to keep out of political problems so as not to involve the organization in issues which might harm its unity and to avoid having political differences and views reflecting on the member states' relations with the organization. He noted that the important role which the organization is assuming in coordinating the economic activity of its member states serves their own peoples as well as the rest of the world and its economy.

YAR

PRESIDENT INTERVIEWED ON UNITY STEPS WITH PDY

JN241959 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jan 80 JN

[Text of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's interview with the YAR paper ADNA' AL-YAMAN--date not given]

[Excerpt] Question: It has been reiterated and some sources have confirmed that a meeting will take place between Your Excellency and brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, president of the southern part of the homeland, in implementation of the Kuwait declaration. Is this the meeting which took place between you in Tunis? If not, when will this meeting take place?

Answer: If meetings between Arab leaders are essential from time to time, then they are also essential and important between the leaders of the two parts of Yemen. Indeed, the 10th Arab summit conference in Tunis was a good opportunity for me to meet with brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il. We discussed a number of issues concerning us and our people such as unity and other issues of international and humanitarian nature. It is premature to say now when the next meeting will take place between us.

Question: It has been some time since we have heard about the joint committees. How much progress have they made, especially the constitution committee? How far have we reached in the economic and political coordination provided by the recent San'a' declaration?

Answer: The unity committees have accomplished a great deal, especially the constitution committee which has only a few articles left to deal with. This will be accomplished soon.

The historic San'a' declaration has moved the Yemeni unity dialog to the implementation stage, especially with regard to economic and trade coordination, the exchange of visits between official and popular delegations and the expansion of interaction among the people in the two parts of Yemen. We are overcoming all obstacles. The San'a' declaration has entrusted the trade and economy ministers in the two parts of Yemen to take the practical steps to achieve economic coordination and to harmonize the general economic and social development plans in the two parts of Yemen. The declaration has also provided that a delegation of either part of the homeland will represent the whole of Yemen in Arab and international conferences as part of the political coordination.

Question: Some political commentators believe that the international allies of both parts of Yemen are an obstacle to the reunification of Yemen. They cite the friendship and cooperation treaty between the southern part of the homeland and the USSR. How true is this, and how can this be overcome?

Answer: Yemeni unity depends on the will of the Yemeni people alone. It is the Yemeni people who will have the final say on unity. It is the people who will decide on the unity constitution in a public referendum. It is the people who will decide on all the important issues. Our policy is to turn to the people in anything that hampers unity.

VISITING PERY COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER MEETS PREMIER

JN241828 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jan 80 JN

[Text] Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani today received Mahmud 'Abdallah 'Ushaysh, minister of communications in the southern part of the homeland, who conveyed a verbal message from 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, prime minister in the southern part of the homeland. The meeting was attended by Communications and Transport Minister Ahmad al-Ansi.

Meets With Counterpart

JN241829 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jan 80 JN

[Excerpt] Communications and Transport Minister Ahmad al-Ansi today received Mahmud 'Abdallah 'Ushaysh, minister of communications in the southern part of the homeland, and the members of his delegation. The discussion during the meeting dealt with coordination between the two ministries in the fields of communications and transport.

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR ADEN TO ATTEND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE SESSION

JN241829 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jan 80 JN

[Text] The members of the northern part of the homeland's delegation to the economic committee left San'a' today for Aden. The delegation, headed by brother 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr, minister of development and chairman of the Central Planning Board, will attend the committee's first session of 1980.

AGREEMENTS WITH ROMANIA SIGNED 24 JANUARY

NC241248 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 24 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 January--Four agreements between Egypt and Romania were signed at the cabinet this morning at the end of Romanian Prime Minister Ilie Verdet's visit to Cairo.

The agreements were signed for the Egyptian side by Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil, and for the Romanian side by Prime Minister Verdet.

These include a protocol on developing bilateral economic cooperation; a \$300-million agreement on bilateral credit facilities; a 1980-1985 agreement for exporting Egyptian cotton to Romania; and an agreement for exporting Egyptian phosphate to Romania during the next 5 years.

After Dr Mustafa Khalil and Ilie Verdet exchanged the ratification documents, Dr Khalil expressed his happiness, saying: I take this opportunity to praise the efforts of officials on both sides during the bilateral discussions.

He affirmed Egypt's determination to further consolidate relations with Romania in various political, economic and technical fields.

Ilie Verdet said that he shared Dr Mustafa Khalil's views and affirmed that his country would do its utmost to implement these documents as soon as possible for the welfare of both peoples.

The signing ceremony was attended by Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr Hamid as-Sayih; Minister of Cabinet Affairs and Minister of State for Local Government Engineer Sulayman Mutwalli; Communications Minister Engineer 'Ali Fahmi ad-Daghistani; Agrarian Reform Minister and chairman of the honorary mission escorting the Romanian guest Engineer Tawfiq Kararah; and members of the Romanian prime minister's delegation.

Dr Mustafa Khalil had a separate 30-minute meeting with the Romanian Prime Minister in his office before signing the agreements.

A joint statement on the results of the Egyptian-Romanian discussions is due to be released simultaneously in Cairo and Bucharest tonight.

Joint Statement

NC241751 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 24 Jan 80 NC

[Text of joint statement issued in Cairo on 24 January at conclusion of Romanian Prime Minister Ilie Verdet's 20-24 January official visit to Egypt]

[Text] At the invitation of Dr Mustafa Khalil, prime minister and foreign minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Ilie Verdet, prime minister of the Socialist Republic of Romania, visited Egypt during the period 20 to 24 January 1980.

His excellency the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat, received his excellency the Romanian prime minister who, on behalf of President of the Socialist Republic of Romania Nicolae Ceausescu, conveyed a message of friendship coupled with the best wishes for the good health and happiness of his excellency and for continued prosperity, advancement and peace for the friendly Egyptian people.

President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat expressed his gratitude for this message, asking that President of the Socialist Republic of Romania Nicolae Ceausescu be given, on behalf of the president and on behalf of the Egyptian people, warm and friendly greetings of good health and happiness for his excellency personally, of prosperity and glory for the friendly Romanian people and of further success in the implementation of the economic and social development plans.

The talks between Dr Mustafa Khalil, prime minister and foreign minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and Mr Ilie Verdet, prime minister of the Socialist Republic of Romania, were held in a cordial atmosphere of full understanding and mutual respect.

During these talks, each prime minister briefed the other on the present economic and social development concerns of each of the two countries. They conducted an in-depth analysis of relations between Egypt and Romania and exchanged views on some current international problems. [passage indistinct]

The two prime ministers noted during the talks that the expansion and diversification of cooperation between the two countries in all fields of mutual interest would provide the best opportunities for continued growth of their economic relations.

The Egyptian and Romanian prime ministers decided that the competent authorities in both countries shall make concerted efforts to prepare well for the next session of the Egyptian-Romanian joint committee for economic, technical and scientific cooperation, to be held in June 1980 in Cairo. The aim is to reach a final definition of the projects discussed during the visit, especially the achievement of a level of bilateral economic exchanges to the value of \$500 million annually as soon as possible in accordance with what has already been agreed upon at the highest level.

The results already achieved in the field of technological, scientific and cultural cooperation were also acknowledged. The two governments emphasized their desire to give these results a fresh impetus as a contribution toward greater rapprochement between the two friendly states and toward a better mutual understanding of the material and spiritual values of the Egyptian and Romanian people as well as the results of their present efforts and creative work.

At the end of the visit the two prime ministers signed a protocol containing the main resolutions and recommendations adopted to increase Egyptian-Romanian economic cooperation in various fields of mutual interest and expand bilateral trade exchanges.

The following documents were also signed during the visit:

1. An agreement for a \$300-million loan from the government of the Socialist Republic of Romania to the government of the Arab Republic of Egypt.
2. Agreements between the Egyptian and Romanian governments on programs for increasing the exports of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Concerning their stand regarding the international situation, the two prime ministers expressed their countries' belief that relations between countries, regardless of their social and political systems, must always be based on the principles of full equality and a full commitment to nonintervention in domestic affairs; full adherence to national independence and sovereignty; renunciation of the use of force or the threat to use force; and mutual respect and benefit.

Egypt and Romania expressed their deep concern over the complex and contradictory international developments which have increased the tendency to divide the world again into spheres of influence; and over the use of a policy of force, domination, hegemony and interference in the domestic affairs of other people and the disregard of other peoples' basic right to live in liberty and independence on a basis of self-determination.

The statement affirmed the need for more intensive and far-reaching efforts to put an end to such tendencies and to encourage a policy based on peace, respect for national independence, detente, stability, security and extensive cooperation among nations.

The two prime ministers reaffirmed the positions of Egypt and Romania on the settlement of international conflicts and the removal of tensions by peaceful means and by direct negotiations between the parties concerned. In this respect, the Egyptian prime minister briefed his Romanian counterpart on the latest Middle East developments and the current status of the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations. The two prime ministers reaffirmed the need to reach an overall, just and durable peace in the Middle East based on Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab lands which were occupied in 1967, the solution of the Palestinian people's problem on the basis of self-determination--including the establishment of an independent state--and a guarantee of the independence and regional unity of all the region's countries.

Regarding the situation in Europe, they underlined the need for good preparation for the 1980 Madrid meeting in order to give a strong impetus to the implementation of the Helsinki document as an indivisible unit, the cooperation among all the states of the continent, and the adoption of specific and effective measures for demilitarization and disarmament. They also underlined the close connection between European security and the security of the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern area.

The talks confirmed the agreement in the Egyptian and Romanian positions regarding the adoption of effective steps toward comprehensive disarmament; particularly nuclear disarmament; the adoption of practical measures to set up a new international economic system; proper preparation for the special UN General Assembly session in the autumn of 1980 which will be devoted to this aim; increasing the role of the small and medium-size states, the nonaligned states and the developing states in discussing and solving the international problems which are currently facing mankind; putting a final end to imperialism, racial discrimination and apartheid; enhancing the role of the United Nations; and democratizing international relations.

The prime minister of the government of Romania and the members of the delegation accompanying him visited economic, social and cultural installations in Egypt, and the guests were accorded a warm and cordial reception everywhere, expressing the good relations between the two countries and peoples.

The prime minister of the government of Romania, Mr Ilie Verdet, expressed his sincere thanks to the Egyptian Government and to Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil for the warm welcome with which he was received.

The Romanian prime minister invited the Egyptian prime minister to pay an official visit to the Socialist Republic of Romania, and the invitation was accepted gladly. The date of the visit will be decided later.

SECOND SESSION OF MILITARY TALKS WITH ISRAEL HELD

NC241533 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 24 Jan 80 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 24 January--The second session of Egyptian-Israeli military discussions began at noon today at the armed forces general command headquarters under Minister of Defense and War Production Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Israeli Minister of Defense 'Ezer Weizman.

The discussions were attended on the Egyptian side by Chief of Staff Lt Gen Ahmad Badawi, Ambassador Taha al-Majdub, Operations Department Chief Maj Gen 'Abad Rab an-Nabi Hafiz, Acting War Intelligence Department Director Maj Gen Labib Sharab and Liaison Department Director Brig Gen Muhsin Hamdi.

The discussions were attended on the Israeli side by Israeli Defense Minister Assistant for Security Affairs Abraham Tamir and Defense Minister Office Director Ilan (Tahil).

At the conclusion of the 2-hour session of discussions, Defense Minister Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali gave a luncheon at the officers' mess in Heliopolis in honor of the Israeli defense minister. General 'Ali then accompanied his guest to Cairo international airport to bid him farewell at the conclusion of his visit.

Defense and War Production Minister Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali made a statement at the airport in which he announced that during the Israeli defense minister's 3-day visit to Egypt, they had discussed a number of subjects of interest to Egypt and Israel. These discussions were held in accordance with the letter and spirit of the peace agreement and in the new spirit of the relations between the two countries.

General 'Ali said that agreement has been reached on the preparations and measures to organize the temporary supervision of the buffer zone with the establishment of checkpoints and observation posts and the operation of patrols.

The defense minister added that this new system will begin functioning as of 1200 on Friday, 25 January 1980, in addition to the role which the Americans are playing in the area as specified by the agreement.

Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali pointed out that this system has indeed been applied, particularly in some areas of the 'Al-'Arish-Catherine" line. Furthermore, this system will be implemented in accordance with the provisions of the peace treaty and its supplements and in accordance with the agreement reached by Egypt, Israel and the United States.

In his statement, the defense minister explained the role played by the joint military committee in the last stage. He said: In the past few months, the committee completed the first phase of the withdrawal--a phase which ends tomorrow, in accordance with the date set by the treaty.

As far as movements by land between the two countries are concerned, the defense minister said that the "Rafah-al-'Arish-al-Qantarah" road will be the land route specified for these movements, adding that this road will be used until final withdrawal to the international border is completed.

Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali added that people will travel on this road using legal visas and in accordance with the relevant measures.

Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that private Egyptian and Israeli vehicles will be allowed to cross the "Al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad" line as of Saturday, 26 January in accordance with the Egyptian and Israeli regulations and the relevant laws. He pointed out that this arrangement will remain in force until the discussions and agreements related to transport on the temporary Al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line are completed as scheduled on 20 February.

In concluding his statement, the defense minister said that persons and groups without private vehicles will be permitted to use Egyptian and Israeli public transport vehicles successively as they cross the temporary line.

'ALI: CAMPS OPENED TO TRAIN AFGHAN REBELS

NC242103 Cairo MENA in Arab c 1908 GMT 24 Jan 80 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 24 January--Minister of Defense and War Production Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali has announced that army camps have been opened for the training of Afghan rebels fighting for the liberation of their country and that Egypt is supporting these rebels in many ways to enable them to liberate their territory from Soviet occupation.

The minister of defense and war production pointed out that the lesson of Afghanistan should open the eyes of the Arab and Islamic states in the region to what is going on around them, make them see the real danger and its sources and thus make them stick together and cooperate to ward off this danger.

Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali emphasized that Egypt has Arab and African commitments which place on its shoulders the responsibility of being always ready to give every possible aid to the fraternal Arab states and the Islamic and African states. He said that it is vital that Egypt's armed forces remain strong and able to act to honor its national and pan-Arab commitments.

On the occasion of the fifth Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, restoring Egyptian sovereignty over more than three-quarters of Sinai, Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that this withdrawal represents an implementation of an important part of the Egyptian-Israeli agreement.

He spoke about the economic and military significance of this withdrawal, which covers the area of the mountain and sand dune passes in Sinai--an area which is considered a major defense line for Egypt from the northeast.

General 'Ali said these things during an interview he granted to the Arab [Egyptian] television, broadcast this evening on the occasion of the handover to Egypt of the fifth area under the main phase of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

Following is the text of the interview granted by Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali to the Arab television:

Question: The talk about the takeover of the fifth area of the first withdrawal stage raises some questions about the presence and deployment of our armed forces in this area.

Answer: In fact, when we signed the treaty on 26 March, it had been preceded by elaborate and hard negotiations which involved all the details. Perhaps before 1967 we were not stationing as many forces in Sinai as are stipulated by the peace treaty. Perhaps the number of our forces in Sinai was less than the number of the forces stipulated in the treaty: that is, 22,000 men, 230 tanks, 216 pieces of artillery and other weapons and equipment.

Question: This signifies that the number [of forces] insures security for Egypt.

Answer: It insures this security perfectly, in conjunction with the early warning system, although we depend on the good intentions generated by good neighborliness between the two states. May I also point out that since the treaty was signed, its provisions have been honestly implemented by the two sides--and there is complete cooperation in the best possible implementation of these provisions. If this is the prevalent spirit which, God willing, will be crowned by the complete implementation of the Camp David decisions on comprehensive autonomy for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, then I believe that no problems will crop up and that we will have achieved security and stability in all the area.

Question: How about the armament of the armed forces?

Answer: As you know, one of the major concerns of the political leadership is armament. We have witnessed the lengthy tour of his excellency the vice president all over the globe.

Question: During this tour, a report was broadcast on the assembly of F-5E planes in Egypt.

Answer: This is also one of the subjects which are likely to be discussed--and this is a branch of industry.

Furthermore, we are indeed strengthening the armed forces by equipping them with the most modern weapons. Contracts have been signed for the first U.S. loan of \$1.5 billion. It will be followed by the second loan--and it is many times this sum. Furthermore, contacts are being continued to specify the types of and quantities of weapons we require.

Question: Are there sources other than the U.S. source?

Answer: There can be no doubt that there are other sources; that is, friendly states, although there is no need to name them.

Question: In light of the present events in Afghanistan and the Middle East area in general, such as disturbances and the Soviet Union's audacity in carrying out its plans, what is our role and what is the role of the armed forces?

Answer: Naturally, our role has been completely elucidated on the one hand by the measures taken and the statements made by President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat and the measures taken by the government and approved by the People's Assembly. On the other hand; that is, concerning the armed forces, we know that we have opened our camps for the training of the Afghan rebels so they can liberate their territory. Furthermore, we are extending several kinds of support to the rebels so they can free their land from this invasion. This also serves to open the eyes of all the Arab and Muslim states in the area to the events occurring around them. They will then see the real danger and where it lies. Consequently, these states will close ranks and collaborate in order to repel this danger. Indeed, this is the time for serious action.

Question: Are we coordinating with other states about events in the area?

Answer: As we have stated, there can be no doubt that there are facilities, for instance, for the U.S. armed forces on Egyptian territory. We reaffirm that these are not bases, but temporary facilities--and this is also a kind of cooperation. Then I consider that the first and second loans constitute a kind of military cooperation between us and the United States and several other friendly states which support us. This is in addition to the other point which you have raised: that is, the assembly of the F-5E planes--and the financial and technical details of this point are still being negotiated. At this point, I want to state that as of 1980, all our military factories will be operating at full production capacity in the military and civilian domains equally.

Question: In conclusion, we thank Your Excellency and we again congratulate you and the armed forces on this occasion which is dear to our hearts.

PARLIAMENT DISCUSSES MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, TRAPT, KILE CANAL

LD250957 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 Jan 80 p 6 LD

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Defense Minister Gen Kamal Hassan 'Ali announced in the People's Assembly yesterday a new plan to build military camps for the armed forces costing 850 million pounds. The ministry will therefore offer land owned by the armed forces for sale, to cover the cost of building these camps. He said that the armed forces are currently gradually evacuating military sites in cities and rural areas.

The minister said that the ministry will submit the new military service bill to the People's Assembly in February. The bill provides for maintaining the military service period in respect of highly qualified persons at 1 year, with a maximum age of 31 years.

He said that the inhabitants of Sinai who defaulted on their military service because of the Israeli occupation of Sinai will not be prosecuted, provided they are not over 35 years of age.

He announced that the armed forces will annually train 45,000 men to be employed in the civilian sector. He also said that the armed forces are working earnestly to wipe out illiteracy in the ranks, and that recruits failing to obtain a certificate of literacy will have their discharge postponed until such a certificate is obtained.

Speaking at the same meeting, Minister of Irrigation and Sudan Affairs Engineer Muhammad 'Abd al-Radi Samahah said that the peace canal will carry irrigation waters to Sinai and that no one has suggested that it will carry water to any other place. He said that any subject concerning this water is always discussed within the Kile Water Authority, which consists of Egyptian and Sudanese engineers. We respect the views of the Sudanese brothers who, if they had any doubts about the Kile waters, would have raised this matter with me during my meeting with them last week. That did not happen.

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR ISLAMABAD, MAKES STATEMENT

JY241733 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 24 Jan 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 January--An Iraqi delegation led by minister of foreign affairs Dr Sadun Hammadi left for Islamabad this evening to participate in the Islamic conference to begin there on Saturday.

Dr Hammadi stated that the participation of the Iraqi delegation stems from the principles of nonalignment which reject intervention by the great powers in the affairs of other countries and not from a tactical position.

Dr Hammadi added that denunciation of a great power's intervention in the affairs of another country should be coupled with a denunciation of all kinds of intervention from any party.

Dr Hammadi said: We are aware that the United States is exploiting all available opportunities to justify and facilitate its intervention in various parts of the world, particularly in our homeland and more precisely in the Arab Gulf area.

Dr Hammadi stressed the need to adopt an independent stand in the forthcoming conference of the Islamic Conference Organization in order to have this stand emerge as a sound and principled one removed from hidden intentions.

Dr Hammadi explained that an independent stand will alone be capable of limiting Soviet intervention in Afghanistan or ending it quickly.

Dr Hammadi warned against the danger of a tactical position which leads to more competition between the two superpowers and thus harms the interests of small, nonaligned countries.

Dr Hammadi announced that during the above mentioned Islamic conference, Iraq will stress its principled stand on Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and the dangers threatening the area and its people as a result of U.S. moves in it.

GDR MACHINERY OFFICIAL DEPARTS 24 JAN

JNE240926 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 24 Jan 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 January--Erich Reim, state secretary in the GDR Ministry for Construction of General Machinery, Agricultural Machinery and Vehicles, left Baghdad for home at dawn today at the end of a 5-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Erich Reim said that during his visit, he and officials in the ministry of agriculture and agrarian reform held talks on ways of bolstering bilateral cooperation in agriculture.

Erich Reim described these talks as successful, noting that the coming year will witness great successes in agricultural cooperation, to further last year's achievements in this field.

PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER RECEIVED JORDANIAN PREMIER

JN241307 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Jan 80 JN

[Text] President Hafez al-Assad received Jordanian Prime Minister ash-Sharif Abd al-Hamid Sharaf at 1330 today.

Prime Minister Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kism and his Jordanian counterpart met at 1100. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abd al-Halim Khaddam and by Jordanian Minister of State Hassan Ibrahim and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Marwan al-Qasbi.

The two sides discussed the achievements gained through Jordanian-Syrian cooperation in various fields over the years. The participants stressed the importance of intensifying efforts on current and future projects that will lead to the attainment of joint goals in coordination and economic integration, in the fraternal spirit that governs their bilateral relations, so that the hopes and aspirations of the Arab people in the two fraternal countries can be realized. The two sides also reviewed the Arab and international situations. The meeting ended at 1300 today.

Further Report

JN241654 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Jan 80 JN

[Text] President Hafez al-Assad received Jordanian Prime Minister ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf at 1330 today. Prime Minister Sharaf conveyed a message from His Majesty King Husayn to President Hafez al-Assad.

President Hafez al-Assad and the Jordanian prime minister discussed developments in the Arab region, issues of mutual concern and ways to bolster joint work. The president and Ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf resumed their talks during a luncheon attended by Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kism, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Minister of Presidential Affairs 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, Jordanian Minister of State Hassan Ibrahim, and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Marwan al-Qasbi.

FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM TO VISIT FRANCE 29 JAN

JN250558 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 24 Jan 80 JN

[Text] SANA has learned that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam will leave Damascus for Paris on 29 January enroute to Strasbourg, to participate in the European Parliamentary Council's debates on the situation in the area. Khaddam will address the session at the invitation of the European Parliamentary Council. SANA has also learned that while in Paris, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister will hold talks with French Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet on bilateral relations and the situation in the area.

FINNISH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS

JN250555 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 24 Jan 80 JN

[Text] A delegation representing the defense committee in the Finnish Riksdagen led by (Tapani Martin) arrived in Damascus at 2030 last night on a visit to Syria.

ALGERIA

PRIME MINISTER DEPARTS FOR YUGOSLAVIA 23 JAN

LD231434 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Brother Abdelghani, member of the Political Bureau and prime minister, left Algiers this morning for Belgrade as a special envoy delegated by Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the party, to convey the good wishes of the president of the state and the Algerian people for a speedy recovery of Yugoslav President Tito. Brother Abdelghani is being accompanied by Finance Minister Hadj Yala. Abdelghani is paying an official visit to Yugoslavia at the invitation of the President of the Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia. At the airport the Algerian delegation was seen off by Mohamed Benyahia, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister.

SEYCHELLES FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON ARRIVAL

LD240031 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 23 Jan 80 LD

[Excerpts] The Seychelles foreign affairs minister arrived this afternoon in Algiers. Mr Jacques Rodoul was met by Mr Benyahia. He later answered questions from the press. [begin recording]

[Question] What are the consequences of the concentration of foreign navy units in the Indian Ocean, minister, and what are the threats hovering over neighbouring countries?

[Answer] That is a matter which concerns us greatly. As you know, lately the United States has decided to develop its air and navy complex in Diego Garcia, and this is very worrying for us, the Seychelles, because we are situated precisely at the heart of the Indian Ocean, a zone which we would like to be one of peace, and the United States would like otherwise. Therefore, the situation created is worrying for us and for all countries surrounding the Indian Ocean. Shortly there will be a UN conference on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace which will probably be held in Colombo, in Sri Lanka. You see, we are merely Third World countries and we [words indistinct] that a big military power, the United States, does not take into account the wish of our people and of the peoples of the entire region to see our ocean becoming again a zone of peace. They talk about a threat against the big oil sea routes [words indistinct]. What we would like to know is where this threat comes from.

As far as we are concerned, we the Indian Ocean countries, we threaten no one. Therefore we are convinced that this is merely a case of an excuse. At the same time, as regards the Indian Ocean, [word indistinct] the United States is using Iran, Afghanistan, and so on, as an excuse in order to step up their military presence in our region, and I am convinced that Mrs Gandhi's new government in India is a very positive one, represents a very positive development as regards our struggle to turn the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace, because I am convinced myself that Mrs Gandhi will make her contribution, just as she did in the past when she was in power, to our struggle so that the foreign powers, in particular the United States and France, cut down their military presence in our region. [end recording]

FLN POLITBURO EXAMINES RELATIONS WITH FRANCE

ID241850 Algiers APB in English 1641 GMT 24 Jan 80 ID

[Text] Algiers, 24/1/80, APB--The FLN Politburo met Wednesday under the chairmanship of Mr Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the party.

The Politburo reviewed works of the Central Committee's permanent commissions, in the framework of the preparation of its next session.

Furthermore, the Politburo examined Algerian-French relations and the last developments of the situation in west of Asia through an expose [as received] of the foreign minister.

LIBYA

U.S. REITERATES THREAT OF INTERVENTION IN ARAB REGION

ID241941 Tripoli JANA in English 1819 GMT 24 Jan 80 ID

[Text] Washington, January 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The imperialist American administration reiterated its threat of military intervention in the Arab region within the context of the terrorist policy it practices against the peoples of the world, particularly in the Arab region.

The threats were made in a speech delivered last night by the leader of American imperialism, Carter, before the American Congress. He said that America is ready to use military force to counter any attempt to harm what he described as the American interests in the Arab Gulf.

Another American official quoted by AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE alleged that Americans have the right to intervene militarily in any situation threatening their interests. President Carter further admitted that America faces peoples' defiance in Iran and other regions of the world.

AL-QADHDHAFI, JALLUD WATCH MILITARY EXERCISE

ID242132 Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 Jan 80 ID

[Text] The supreme commander of the armed forces [Al-Qadhdhafi] and Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud this afternoon watched a military exercise based on the assumption that a treacherous attack had taken place. The exercise was carried out in two stages, the first of missiles being fired at the attacking forces, and the second involved firing missiles from mobile vehicles on enemy strategic regions. The dummy targets were completely destroyed during the two stages. Some of the pioneers of the armed people, students from the applied engineering institute and the (Al-Hawwari) women teachers institute, who are being trained in border-crossing missiles [as heard] took part.

JAMAICAN SECURITY MINISTER RECEIVED IN TRIPOLI

ID231634 Tripoli JANA in English 1438 GMT 23 Jan 80 ID

[Text] Tripoli, January 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Mr Ali Abul Kheir, secretary for (people's) (congresses) affairs at the Secretariat of the General People's Congress yesterday received the Jamaican security minister and his delegation who are on a visit to the Jamahiriyah.

He briefed the delegation about the democratic experience and the gigantic achievements realized by the Libyan people under the revolution and in implementation of the universal theories provided in the three parts of the Green Book and of the dictum: "authority, revolution and arms in the hands of the people".

He stressed that the Libyan people had resolved to attain its authorities in every field, to provide its food from its land in conformity with Colonel al-Qadhafi's dictum: "No independence to a people who depend on imported food." He went on to say that the Libyan people had accomplished much in this way and is in the process of achieving more in order to attain its ambitions and those of the Arab nation.

For his part the Jamaican security minister expressed his admiration for the third universal theory.

"We in Jamaica," he said, "feel that we are close to you because we feel that the theses of the third universal theory have come to serve all mankind". He pointed out that this experience is a seed which will bear fruit for humanity.

He specified that imperialism will find it (impossible) to fight a theory which has come to serve humanity, this being the third universal theory. "Yet", he added, "imperialism will fight all those who believe in this theory's humanitarian theses which call for the freedom of the peoples and for self-reliance."

He called upon the peoples of the country to cooperate and be in solidarity so as to defeat world imperialism led by the U.S.A., stressing that what America calls "aid to the Third World" is a mere poison which kills slowly under the cover of assistance.

Referring to the pressures executed by U.S. imperialism against the Jamaican people in order to bring it under its political and economic influence and domination, he said: "We are happy at the experience of the Libyan Arab people," noting that this experience will have favourable consequences in the future of mankind.

MAURITANIA

NEW MAURITANIAN OFFICIALS APPOINTED 24 JAN

ID242320 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 24 Jan 80 ID

[Text] The permanent committee of the Military Committee of National Salvation met at 1000 on 24 January under the chairmanship of Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, head of the Military Committee of National Salvation, head of state and head of government.

The committee entrusted one of its committees with devising practical ways for trade union organizing.

The military committee approved the appointment of Naval Lt Dahhan Ould Ahmed Mahmoud as minister in charge of the secretariat of the Military Committee of National Salvation and the appointment of Maj [name indistinct] as state comptroller general.

CORNERSTONE LAID AT PRO-FINANCED STADIUM

AB240808 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 24 Jan 80 AB

[Excerpt] Lt Col Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the Military Committee of National Salvation and head of state and government, yesterday laid the cornerstones of the Nouakchott Olympic Stadium and of the Nouakchott cement storage and repackaging center. The two ceremonies, during which speeches were made, were attended by many high-ranking personalities.

During the first ceremony, the minister of youth, sports, handicrafts and tourism, Mr Ba Oumar, emphasized the importance the Mauriticians attach to the construction of the stadium. He particularly stressed the Chinese-Mauritanian cooperation, which has continued to develop. The Chinese Ambassador to Mauritania, who spoke next, recalled the precious assistance given by the Mauritanian authorities and which enabled the early start of the construction of the stadium.

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES CHINESE AMBASSADOR

AB241500 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 24 Jan 80 AB

[Text] Mr Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, this morning received the ambassador of China in Mauritania, the charge d'affaires of [word indistinct] in our country and finally the French ambassador. These meetings fall within the framework of cooperation between Mauritania and the countries concerned.

MOROCCO

AL-MUHARRIR COMMENTS ON SOVIET INTERVENTION

LD250945 Casablanca AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 9 Jan 80 pp 1, 8 LD

[Editorial: "Clarity and Independence of Opinion"]

[Text] It has been impossible for the socialist union to maintain silence over what is happening in Afghanistan, now that it has become clear to everybody that the matter has assumed the character of flagrant intervention in the internal affairs of others. Adherence to the principle of rejecting subservience and the principles of nonalignment require our country not only to apply these principles, but also to take them as a basis for the adoption of stands dictated by international circumstances and implications.

It is true that Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan is not the first of its kind in recent and contemporary history. Only months ago, some Western states interfered in the internal affairs of other states; a year or less ago, the forces of an African state invaded the territory of another African state. There is a difference, however, between Western imperialism and its agents on the one hand, and the Soviet Union on the other. Interference in the internal affairs of others through the use of force or other means has characterized the imperialist states' behavior. Until recently, the Soviet Union had not adopted this type of intervention, at least outside the Warsaw Pact states. But now that the Soviets have chosen to intervene militarily in a country that is neither Warsaw Pact state nor bound by any commitments toward them--a country which is a nonaligned state and whose people are weak and have a bitter history of repulsing foreign invasions but who have never been colonized--nothing can justify keeping quiet about such an abominable act.

That has been the feeling of several progressive parties in various parts of the world. Suffice it to refer only to the communist parties in several European countries like Italy, Spain, Romania and Yugoslavia, which did not hesitate to denounce this intervention that in no way serves the cause of liberation or the struggle against imperialism and domination in the world.

When it decided to declare its denunciation of this invasion on the basis of the aforementioned facts, the socialist union was keen on distinguishing its stand by two basic things which reflect our party's clear stand and independent opinion:

1. The Political Bureau was eager to denounce at the same time some Third World rulers who are not only content to keep quiet about the pressures and means used by this or that side to dominate them, but even go so far as to offer their country, their people and their country's resources to colonialism and imperialism. This is a serious phenomenon that we have begun to notice--the phenomenon of accepting subservience which we are witnessing and which will inevitably be the fate of every government that is not based on the people and that does not derive its power from the people.
2. The Political Bureau statement was also eager to caution the genuine liberation forces in the Arab and Islamic world to distinguish between the duty of denouncing and condemning aggression and heeding the propaganda of world imperialism, which is the historical enemy of the Arabs and Muslims. World imperialism, which created Israel and continues to protect it, is the same imperialism which is now tightening the grip around the throat of the Iranian people and trying to abort their popular, Islamic revolution; it is the same world imperialism which is now mobilizing the devilish information media available to it to depict Islam and the Muslims as the gravest danger of the late 20th century. Therefore, it is imperative that we emphasize that the Soviet Union has been and continues to be the real and actual supporter of the Palestine cause--the cause of Arabism and Islam--and has effectively supported the liberation movements in the Arab and Islamic world.

Denouncing the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan while extolling Soviet support for Palestine does not constitute a contradictory stand. No. It is a proper stand, which can be adopted only by those who control their own thinking and who have clarity of vision and an independent opinion. It is the right thing which must be announced publicly without flattering, shielding or fearing any side.

SUDAN

MILITARY FACILITIES WILL NOT BE OFFERED TO U.S.

JN251043 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1035 GMT 25 Jan 80 JY

[Text] Khartoum, 24 January--A responsible source in the Foreign Affairs Ministry here has utterly denied reports circulated by some media abroad on the possibility that Sudan will offer military facilities to the United States.

The source affirmed that Sudan's firm, principled stand is such that it opposes the establishment of any foreign bases or the offer of military facilities on its territory to any side.

Ambassador Denies Offer

JN251057 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 25 Jan 80 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 25 January--In a statement he issued here yesterday, U.S. Ambassador in Khartoum Donald Clayton Bergus denied reports by mass media abroad on the possibility that Sudan will offer military facilities to his country in Port Sudan.

The U.S. ambassador affirmed that this issue was not raised by either of the two governments. The U.S. ambassador added that he did not raise this issue with the Sudanese authorities during his recent brief visit to Port Sudan.

A responsible source in the Foreign Affairs Ministry earlier denied these reports and affirmed that Sudan's firm stand opposes the establishment of any foreign bases or the offer of any military facilities on Sudanese territory to any side.

OPPOSITION LEADER LEAVES BAGHDAD 24 JAN

JN242118 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2055 GMT 24 Jan 80 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 24 January--Ash-Sharif Husayn al-Hindi, chairman of the Sudanese Democratic Union Party, left Baghdad this evening at the end of a visit to Iraq at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command.

In a statement to INA, Al-Hindi expressed satisfaction with the talks he held with Ba'th Party National Command officials. He said: These talks were held in a positive atmosphere and resulted in a mutual understanding of all the issues discussed.

ROMANIAN ECONOMY MINISTER ARRIVES 23 JAN

JN241122 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 24 Jan 80 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 24 January--A Romanian delegation headed by Ludovic Fazekas, Romanian Communist Party Political Executive Committee member and minister of forestry, economy and construction material, arrived here yesterday to participate in the third SSU Congress, which will begin on 26 January.

In a statement upon his arrival, Ludovic Fazekas expressed his pleasure at visiting Sudan and participating in the third congress, wishing the congress great success in its duties.

The Romanian delegation was met upon arrival by Politburo member Bashir 'Abbad and several SSU officials.

'EZER WEIZMAN COMMENTS ON CAIRO TALKS

TA241616 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 Jan 80 TA

[Text] 'Ezer Weizman has concluded his talks in Cairo and returned to Israel this evening. Speaking at Ben-Gurion Airport, he said that the Israeli-Egyptian border will open as scheduled in 2 days [as heard], and Israeli cars could travel to Egypt through the Al-'arish border point if the travelers are in possession of Egyptian entrance permits. He said that the permits could be issued at the border point itself.

At the end of his visit to Cairo, 'Ezer Weizman and his counterpart, Kamal Hasan 'Ali, issued a joint statement saying that the supervision arrangements for the Sinai buffer zone have been agreed upon, including the construction of supervision and observation points and the operation of joint patrols. This arrangement will take effect at noon tomorrow. At the same time, the United States will fulfill its obligations in implementing the agreement.

Views on Border Crossing, Normalization

TA241612 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1525 GMT 24 Jan 80 TA

[Excerpt of news conference with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman upon his return from a 3-day visit to Egypt at Ben-Gurion Airport--live]

[Text] I was in Cairo for almost 3 days and I can say that if there were any fears or doubts regarding the normalization, I cannot say much because I am going to see Mr Begin in a few minutes. The normalization will progress as scheduled, and, I hope, even at a greater pace than we had expected and in all the areas; the Rafah-'arish Qantarah road will be opened to private vehicles in accordance with the agreement on 25 January. Private vehicles from both sides will cross in accordance with the laws on both sides of the border. In Egypt, for instance, there is a law that no foreign vehicle can enter the country with its country's license plates. Consequently, it receives a plate from the customs authorities; not another plate, but a number from the customs authorities. According to our laws--I repeat--private vehicles as well as buses will cross. There should be an arrangement between the two bus companies. In short, the land road will be opened in accordance with what we had concluded, along the Al-'arish-Ra's Muhammad line. All the matters of supervision along the Al-'arish-Ra's Muhammad line have been arranged as well as, of course, the continuation [of the present arrangements] regarding St Catherine's. There were also some problems with the water arrangements for Sharm ash-Shaykh. They have been solved. Also, there were problems with the [water] pumps, all sorts of problems--do not ask me for details--some more simple, some less simple.

In short, to sum up about the normalization, to the best of my knowledge and estimation there will not be any problems. In general, in the last 2 years, I have occasionally recommended not taking an extreme direction but rather assuming a more or less reasonable pace and a rather normal state.

I have met with the president and with the vice president. I was, of course, the guest of the defense minister for those 3 days. I talked with Prime Minister Mr Khalil only on the telephone. All in all, the welcome...I had thought it would be a regular visit. But I suppose you saw on television that the Defense Ministry arranged a nice state visit with the Israeli national anthem and flags. In some matters it was a bit more than I had expected in an almost routine visit between the two ministers.

The Egyptian defense minister will visit Israel at a yet unfixed date, but I hope next month. The joint [military] committee will, of course, continue to operate in the same framework on all the current affairs, such as the buffer zone. There are no problems with the U.S. supervision and I conclude: The issue of the normalization is on track.

[Question by unidentified correspondent] Mr Weizman, you have also met with President as-Sadat. Did you discuss recent developments as well, regarding the autonomy talks between Israel and Egypt?

[Answer] No, we rather exchanged views on what had happened in the area; what happened in Afghanistan, Pakistan and other areas. It was an extremely interesting conversation, very serious, and lasted approximately 1 and 1/2 hours. I had the feeling that had I not had to rush for dinner where many of my friends were waiting for me. The conversation could have lasted until the wee hours of the night.

[Question] Did you share views on these issues?

[Answer] Certainly about the issue of Afghanistan.

[Question by television military correspondent 'Amiram Nir] Mr Defense Minister, in your meeting with President as-Sadat and in your talks with General 'Ali, was the issue of the autonomy or the crisis that either has, or was to have been marked, mentioned in any way?

[Answer] No. (To my surprise), it was not raised at all. [Live coverage stopped at this point and broadcast was returned to the studio]

Further Details

TA241955 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Jan 80 TA

[Interview with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman by television military correspondent 'Amiram Nir within the framework of Weizman's news conference at Ben-Gurion Airport upon his return from a 3-day visit to Egypt--videotaped]

[Text] [Question] You, Mr Weizman, have said that in your estimation the normalization would proceed according to schedule and perhaps even faster. And yet we have noticed that in various areas things are only settled at the very last minute, or even not at all. For example, a building for the embassy [in Cairo was settled only] at the last minute.

[Answer] One moment. I would like to interrupt now. I do not think the problem of a building is the result of any directive by a body that decided to put it off until the very last minute. Besides, if something is done beyond a certain date this is bad. But if something ends at the last minute, it is good that it ends. The issue of the building for the embassy has been concluded. I suspect--and I do not know, as I did not deal with this issue except for a word here and a word there; Brigadier General Poran dealt with it--that it is simply difficult to find apartments in Egypt in the places you want your embassy to be located. For example, in Heliopolis and other places outside the city center we could have found an apartment much quicker but our Foreign Ministry decided--and I am not arguing it--that it would be better to have the Israeli embassy in the Cairo embassy center. This is what had ultimately been decided.

[Question] Mr Defense Minister the air link between Israel and Egypt should have opened on Saturday night [26 January]. But we have once again heard that the flights will be postponed. Do you know anything of this matter?

[Answer] Yes. The link will be opened and Israeli and Egyptian airplanes will fly. Here, too, I would highly recommend and really appeal--and I may be repeating myself from time to time--if, after 32 years [of having no air links] and 30 years of wars, the link opens a week later and is not following a stopwatch precisely, but is done a week later, I think nothing will happen. Ultimately, to remind you, the doubts and the talk that preceded the return of St Catherine's. What will happen there? People fly and go there. I would highly recommend that we not use a magnifying glass all the time to try to find where the other party is doing things badly, because it won't take long before the magnifying glass will also work the other way around.

[Question] Regarding the land border, have your contacts resulted in the fact that as of Saturday...

[Weizman, interrupting] That is all we need; that it will be Saturday.

[Question] Will the citizens of Israel be able to go by car--their own--to Egypt, after crossing the border?

[Answer] Yes. This depends on a visa and a passport. Look, let us remember once again that this is the first time we will enjoy normal neighborly relations with this country. Not all neighboring countries have totally open borders. I do not believe we should expect anything beyond normal and neighborly relations with Egypt. I expect that certain things may perhaps happen in time, and, therefore, if a Jew comes without a passport or a visa, he will be told: Take your car and go back to Tel Aviv or Ashqelon.

Sinai Buffer Zone Arrangements

TA250942 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jan 80 pp 1,2 TA

[By Ze'ev Schiff]

[Excerpt] From now on, U.S. air patrols above Egyptian-held Sinai will be doubled following the IDF's deployment on the Ra's Muhammad-Al-'Arish line. At the same time, Israel has announced that it does not oppose UN observers helping the Americans in surveillance activities as long as this activity does not detract from Washington's commitment to supervise the implementation of the military agreement in the Sinai and establish an international force in the future. These are two of the clauses in the supervision agreement between Israel, Egypt and the United States recently agreed upon and finally coordinated during Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman's visit to Egypt.

Up to the IDF's withdrawal on Friday (today), and in accordance with the interim agreement, the Americans carried out air patrols along both sides of the former buffer zone in the Sinai every 2 weeks. Israel claimed that in the wake of the withdrawal of the UN forces and the cessation of this large force's activity, and in view of the fact that the establishment of the international force has been postponed, it is now necessary to increase air patrols and photo surveillance. This has been agreed upon by all three parties, and henceforth such air patrols will be carried out once a week over areas A and B held by the Egyptians which are close to the canal. This refers to high altitude flights taking aerial photographs which will be submitted to both sides. Furthermore, American supervisors will also patrol these areas in light aircraft, but aerial photographs will not be taken from them. The American force will also use two or three civilian helicopters.

As for the UN observers and their participation in supervising the military agreement, it is reported that the Americans will be conducive to more efficient supervision. The UN forces have already evacuated the Sinai. On the other hand, there are still about 150 UN observers in the region of the former buffer zone and they are awaiting a final decision on their status. As has been said, Israel made their employment dependent on the United States being responsible for them and on the condition that this does not detract in the least from Washington's commitment to establish an international force in the future, and its commitment to supervise the military agreement.

Security Issue Discussed

TA241735 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 24 Jan 80 TA

[Report on Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman's news conference at Ben-Gurion Airport on 24 January--recorded]

[Excerpt] [Begin recording] [Radio correspondent Meron Tzur] The defense minister was asked whether during his talks in Cairo he dealt with the issue of the autonomy in the West Bank.

[Weizman] No. To my surprise--actually, this does not surprise me. We have hardly dealt with the issue. Of course, here and there people said: It would have been nice to have gotten on the right path on this issue.

[Tzur] Does the defense minister foresee a possibility of things heating up along the Syrian border as a result of the normalization with Egypt?

[Weizman] At the moment I cannot predict this. I believe perhaps not. But the IDF is always on guard, especially against Syria. We have borders and a state of war with Jordan, Syria and Lebanon--and Saudi Arabia to an extent; at least it is close to us. Therefore, for the moment I have no grounds to tell you: Yes. But I always have grounds for being on alert. [end recording]

EGYPT IMPOSES RESTRICTIONS ON EMBASSY STAFF IN CAIRO

TA241159 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Jan 80 p 1 TA

[By Yosef Wachsman]

[Excerpt] The Egyptian authorities have requested the number of people working in Israel's Embassy in Cairo to be restricted to a maximum of 15--at least during the first stage.

In reaction to this, Israel has announced that the Egyptians will also not be able to staff their embassy in Israel with more than 15 people.

MA'ARIV DISCUSSES PROBLEMS IN NORMALIZATION PROCESS

TA241149 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Jan 80 p 5 TA

[Shmuel Segev commentary: "The Embassy, as an Example"]

[Text] During the dinner in Aswan at the beginning of the month, Egyptian Minister of State Butrus Ghali was asked by an Israeli journalist how, in his opinion, the normalization in the relations between Egypt and Israel would be implemented. Ghali, an experienced statesman who has been part of the peace process from its inception, did not hesitate to lay down the principle guiding his ministry in this sphere: "Do not rush and do not rush us...."

Anyone who was involved this week in the preparations for the opening of a new era in the relations between these two countries, which is to begin at the end of the week, will not find it hard to discover that "Israel's doctrine" is indeed actually being implemented. In accordance with this view, Egypt is being scrupulous about the dry language of the treaty, but is not yet being swept away by the "spirit of peace." Because of this there is not even one sphere in which matters are being implemented easily.

Take, for example, the finding of a suitable building for the Israeli Embassy. For 9 months it has been known that Israel and Egypt are due to establish full diplomatic relations, on the level of ambassadors, on 26 February. The Israeli Foreign Ministry has given its attention to this problem and when the Egyptian delegation arrives in Israel next week to examine the issue, about 20 housing suggestions will be given--both for the embassy and for residences for the diplomatic staff. This does not apply to Cairo. Up to the last moment it was not clear where the Israeli Embassy would be situated.

Israeli elements do not see any malicious intentions in this Egyptian behavior. They explain that the difficulties arise partially from a different mentality and partially from objective difficulties. In contrast to Israel, whose Western character gives its behavior a certain amount of "aggressiveness"--the average Egyptian is more moderate in his reactions and he weighs his actions with a slowness bordering on apathy. But as Chaim's slogan--"Do a + rush and do not rush us"--demonstrates this mentality very nicely. Two thousand years of history, during which Egypt was ruled by many foreign conquerors and at the mercy of the alien left a stamp of fatalism on the character of the Egyptian and he sees every development as the "fruit of Allah's will." Therefore, there is also "no point" in his view in speeding up matters or influencing their development, since "Allah's will" will be victorious in any case....

But beyond differences of character, temperament and lifestyles, we cannot ignore the objective difficulties facing Egypt at the eve of normalization. The greatest difficulty is the security problem. Even if we ignore the existence of opposition groups in Egypt, the presence of about 17,000 Palestinian students studying at six universities and other institutes of higher education cannot be ignored. Egyptian officials fear that there are underground cells among these students and in view of the terrorist attacks against various Egyptian targets abroad (in Moscow, Mexico and Madrid) there is reasonable fear of attempts to damage the Israeli Embassy building or to assassinate Israeli diplomats. This fear lays a heavy security burden on Egypt, one it has not experienced up to now. Egypt, of course, takes into account the possibility that Israeli security personnel will defend the embassy building and guard the life of the ambassador, Dr Eli'ahu Ben-Elissar, and other Israeli diplomats. But the responsibility for the Israelis' security rests first and foremost with Egypt and it is Egypt which will, in the final analysis, determine the nature of the defense rendered to Israeli diplomats. Therefore, were the matter dependent on Egypt alone, then housing the Israeli Embassy and its staff in the Hilton Hotel or another hotel would release the Egyptian security service from a bad headache....

It is clear that Israel does not have to accept the Egyptian argument regarding the "objective difficulties" as something obvious. But even if we reject this argument, the "logic" at its foundations should be understood. This is not only important with regard to a solution to the "embassy problem," but mainly with regard to the actualization of the practical contents of the peace treaty. [Language continues]

It is no secret that in the accepted process of "give and take," Egypt's situation to date has been the most convenient. Israel gave and Egypt took. Over the first 9 months of its existence, the peace treaty did not impose any commitment on Egypt to "give" Israel anything in return for the withdrawal to the Al-Arish-Ra's Muhammad line, the evacuation of the oilfields and the Um Khushayt, Jabal (Yaloq) and Jabal Magharah stations. The Egyptian "giving" in fact starts only tomorrow with the completion of the withdrawal to the new line.

DAVAR ON U.S. PRESSURE FOR SOLUTION TO PALESTINIAN ISSUE

TA241301 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 24 Jan 80 p 7 TA

[Yehoshu'a Tadmor commentary: "The Americans Are Renewing the Pressure"]

[Text] Had there been a recent Israeli Government which knew what it was facing, it should have examined the significance of Husayn's latest moves just as it should have examined the latest statements by the heads of the U.S. administration, indicating impatience and unwillingness to continue postponing vital decisions on the question of autonomy and the Palestinian solution. As is known, top-ranking U.S. elements have recently been linking the U.S. supreme interest in containing the Soviets with tangible progress on the Palestinian issue. While it is clear to us that this impatience will only cause a hardening in the positions of Husayn, Egypt, and even more, the Palestinians, the Saudi Arabians and the Egyptians are applying pressure and there is almost nothing the U.S. administration will not be prepared to do for them. With lightning speed the White House recommended modern arms deals with Saudi Arabia and Egypt, totalling billions, without any attempt at coordinating this with Israel. And if this is what happens during a U.S. election year, which has always been particularly beneficial for Israel, it is easy to imagine the pressure campaign will be used again as later. Israel must, therefore, examine at once any possibility which may be advanced right now, this year.

There is practically no expert dealing with the Palestinian issue who does not feel the danger that, however vague the agreements and clauses on the authority of the legislative body and the source of power, the genuine autonomy the Egyptians and Americans are demanding will, sooner or later, lead to a Palestinian-PLO state. It is certain that the whole autonomy affair is angering and deterring Husayn and he has not spared either the autonomy program or Israel a tongue-lashing, even during the last 2 weeks. It is noticeable that he regards the autonomy as a way of annexing the West Bank or, at a later date--as the groundwork for the establishment of a Palestinian-PLO state. Both of these two solutions are catastrophic for him.

Accordingly, it seems he is renewing his maneuvers. He is signaling a little to Israel, and a little to Washington. At the same time, he is trying to instill the breath of life into the remainder of his supporters.

There is something helping Husayn's maneuvering space in the latest events in the pan-Arab arena. First and foremost, in a negative way, for example, the foreign ministers of the "countries standing firm" met last week in Damascus without having bothered to invite Jordan. For years Husayn tried to make himself appear acceptable in the eyes of the Arab states and the Rejectionist Front. He twisted and maneuvered, fostered his relations with Damascus, was cordial to Colonel Qadhafi, and opened a dialog with the PLO and Iraq. After he had swallowed all the frogs and the Palestinian formulations from the PLO temple and was finally received back into the great Arab family everything, on the surface, returned to its beginning. The foreign ministers of the "countries standing firm"--Syria, Libya, South Yemen and the PLO leaders--met in Damascus, dealt with the Palestinian issue from all angles, and Jordan was left out.

It is true that Husayn hurried to whitewash the insult. Close to the date of the meeting, he went on a tour of Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf countries. There are signs that apart from public relations, exchanges of views and tightening of ties, very practical matters were raised during the visit--Jordan's willingness to provide real aid, through its armed forces, for the defense of the oil countries, at home and abroad.

By the standards of the oil countries and those of the Gulf, Jordan has a large, powerful and loyal army. Perhaps it was no coincidence that several papers from those countries mentioned Jordan's interest in a solution to the West Bank problem. When internal security is being undermined and the Soviet threat is increasing and the PLO is losing its influence after its leaders gave their support to Ayatollah Khomeyni and the Soviet invaders, perhaps a change is emerging and Husayn's maneuvering space is becoming somewhat increased. If he is indeed signaling--in spite of his intransigent positions--it is an elementary duty to examine matters. Everyone knows that 1981 [as published] will not be a better year for negotiations with Husayn.

INCREASED SYRIAN PRESENCE REPORTED IN LEBANON

TA241825 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Jan 80 TA

[Text] In the last 48 hours, Syria has markedly increased its forces in Lebanon. Much activity by Syrian Army and members of the Palestine Liberation Army could be discerned in the areas of the Lebanon Valley and along the coast south of Beirut. Our monitor, Mikha'el Gurous, reports that, based on Christian broadcasts from Beirut, the Syrian force in Lebanon has been reinforced in the last 48 hours by 45 tanks, artillery units and dozens of trucks which transported soldiers from the special forces. Palestine Liberation Army units equipped with armored cars have also been stationed near Damur, south of Beirut.

RAFI CHAIRMAN CONCERNED ABOUT REMAINING IN LIKUD

TA242049 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 24 Jan 80 TA

[Text] Tonight, the RAFI executive elected MK Zalman Shoval as the chairman of the movement's executive. He will replace Finance Minister Yigael Hurvitz, who was elected chairman of the movement. Shoval said that RAFI wants to continue to be part of the Likud, but the Likud must understand that the partnership cannot continue on the basis of the current situation. He added that if his statements are properly understood, it is doubtful whether RAFI could remain in the Likud.

'AL HAMISHMAR ON BOYCOTT OF MOSCOW OLYMPICS

TA240956 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 24 Jan 80 p 3 TA

["Spotlight" column: "Sport and Politics"]

[Text] The matter of boycotting the Moscow Olympics is a bone of contention throughout the world. Both in the United States and in Western European countries opinions are divided. The main reason given by those opposed to the boycott is: Politics should not be mixed with sports: Politics and sports are separate. And they go further. If one starts with the boycott weapon, it is impossible to know where to draw the line: Today Israel, tomorrow another nation, the day after that this or that country and there is no end to it.

However, both common sense and emotions say that each step, each case, should be examined separately, against its own background and implications. It is clear that a reaction to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan should be such that it will be clear to the Soviet Union.

The prestige of the Soviet Union's leaders will suffer a blow. World public opinion will, in this way, say to the leaders of the USSR: Gentlemen, there is a limit which must not be passed. Limits are becoming increasingly blurred on matters more vital than sports.

And indeed, if we do not want a warlike reaction; if we do not want, or recommend with complete justification, taking measures which leave no way of retreating and necessarily lead to a degeneration whose end cannot be imagined--then there is only one way remaining. That alternative is, and should be, a political-moral protest and nonparticipation in the Olympics, which are as much a demonstration of the Soviet Union's prestige and power as they are a demonstration of sports.

This is not a boycott of the Russians. This is not a boycott of sportsmen from the Soviet Union. This is a boycott of the Soviet Union as the host of the Olympics. The anger and protest must be expressed. And this would be the expression demanded by the moment!

GENERAL STRIKE IN GAZA, WEST BANK CALLED FOR 26 JANUARY

LD241615 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Jan 80 p 1 LD

[ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT report]

[Excerpt] London--The national guidance committee in the occupied territories has announced that on Saturday, 26 January, the date on which the borders between Egypt and Israel are scheduled to be opened, a general strike will be staged in the occupied West Bank and Gaza sector in protest against this step and in response to the call made by the PLO to declare a general strike inside and outside the occupied territories.

Hamallah Mayer Karim Khalaf commented on the question of reopening the borders by saying: The Palestinian masses, which have denounced the Camp David agreement, will once again declare their rejection of the plot that has been contrived by the American-Egyptian-Israeli triumvirate.

He said: We, the sons of the Palestinian people, will not abandon our sole legitimate representative, the PLO, nor will we adopt a decision that is contrary to our leadership's decision to stage a general strike.

AFGHANISTAN

APPOINTMENT OF MINISTERIAL ADVISERS ANNOUNCED

LD242051 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jan 80 LD

[Summary] At the proposal of the relevant ministries and on the authorization of Babrak Karmal, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the following appointments have been approved:

Dr 'Abdul Ghafur Ravan-Farimadi as adviser in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
Dr 'Abdolvahed Sarabi as adviser in the Ministry of High Education;
'Abdul Hakim as adviser in the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform.

KARMAL TELLS AAFSO DELEGATION OF AMIN PLOT

LD241828 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jan 80 LD

[Excerpt] Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA], received the AAFSO delegation in the hall of the Revolutionary Council headquarters this morning. Thanking them for AAFSO's declaration of support for the Saur Revolution, especially for its new phase, Babrak Karmal said: [read by announcer]

I sincerely thank you for the study and evaluation of, and the objective and scientific conclusion that you have drawn about the Saur Revolution and the party and the government of the DRA during your stay in Kabul. I am certain that our dear friends, with their progressive and judicious outlook, have collected and studied all the facts about the need for the new phase of the Saur Revolution and have diagnosed the truth. It ought to be pointed out that in accordance with the extremely deceitful conspiracy and design of the U.S. CIA, out of the hundreds of crimes and treacheries that they have inflicted on our country, one was this: Hafizullah Amin wanted to brutally impose his personality cult of our hard-working people.

But the present party, government and state of Afghanistan have made one honorable pledge to their own people, which is not to tell their own people and the people of the world anything other than the truth. Hence, based on the will of the people of Afghanistan, I present to you once again this truth, that had it not been for the discretion and alertness of the people of Afghanistan under the leadership of the People's United Democratic Party of Afghanistan, the self-sacrifice of the heroic army of Afghanistan, and the disinterested and fraternal help of the USSR, the victorious Saur Revolution would not have reached its new stage; and today, there would have occurred a great historic tragedy, not only in Afghanistan but also in the region. This huge and dramatic tragedy was designed by the Amin band in collaboration with the U.S. CIA, the conspiracy of the Beijing leadership, and the reactionaries of the region, and their constant collusion with the As-Sadat and Israeli regimes and other reactionary forces was set up in such a way that implementation of the plan would have eliminated half the population of Afghanistan. The country's independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity would have perished; and even the Iranian Islamic movement under the leadership of Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni would have been crushed, and a more painful tragedy than that of Chile would have taken place in the region.

Babrak Karmal said in conclusion: Please convey the warm and comradely greetings of the people of Afghanistan, the PDPA and the government of Afghanistan to all the revolutionary, freedom-seeking and struggling comrades and friends of Asia and Africa, especially AAFSO, and tell them that revolutionary Afghanistan is fulfilling its revolutionary duties side by side with AAFSO against imperialism, Zionism, apartheid and racial discrimination. We are certain that on this path we shall enjoy the help and support of the progressive, peace-loving and freedom-seeking forces against the reactionary and imperialist forces, colonialism and neocolonialism.

KABUL NOTES PARALLELS BETWEEN AFGHAN, IRANIAN STRUGGLES

LD242540 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Jan 80 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, we now draw your attention to tonight's commentary: The imperialist forces have launched extensive activities against the progress of our national and democratic revolution and against the friendly and fraternal government of the Soviet Union which assisted our people without conditions or reservations at a most sensitive juncture when our liberating revolution was faced with serious danger from imperialist aggression and the reaction of the region.

This constitutes a part of the (freak) policy of exacerbation of international tension which the ruling and warmongering circles of the United States adopted after the victory of the new phase of the national and democratic revolution of the freedom-loving people of Afghanistan. This revolution ended the domination of the notorious and disgraced lackey of the CIA, Hafizullah Amin, the butcher. The world-devouring U.S. imperialism, which has an insatiable appetite for plundering other countries, has threatened the struggle for peace and detente in our country, which is the fruit of the continuous efforts of the peace-loving forces of the world and of progressive humanity. The United States makes this threat under the pretext of the so-called Afghanistan issue and because of its opposition to the presence of limited contingents of the Soviet army, which has been, during its 60-year history, a genuine liberating army.

The imperialist warmongering circles are struggling to continue the past maneuvers of their collaborators and to find new supporters for this antihuman and aggressive policy in this crisis-stricken region of the world. The imperialists, in order to gain concessions and to mislead the righteous and anti-imperialist movement of the fraternal Iranian people, who have taken a firm stand against imperialism and the plundering interests of the international monopolies under the leadership of his excellency Ayatollah Khomeyni, have announced their initial readiness to extradite the savage and bloodthirsty shah of Iran whose criminal hands are stained, like those of the butcher Amin, with the blood of thousands of struggling supporters of his excellency Ayatollah Khomeyni, as well as Tudeh followers and pro-Mossadeq and other anti-imperialist forces. [sentence as heard] The Islamic and anti-imperialist revolution of the fraternal people of Iran has ended the savage Pahlavi monarchy in Iran and the influence of the plundering international monopolies, primarily those of the U.S. imperialists.

The hard-working people of Iran proposed the trial of the shah as a trial of imperialism. World imperialism and American imperialism, in particular, have been implicated in all the crimes that the savage shah committed in Iran. His excellency Ayatollah Khomeyni, the illustrious leader of the Islamic and anti-imperialist Iranian movement, has declared the shah to be an agent of corruption on earth and the crimes of this renegade shah have irritated the masses of the entire world. U.S. imperialism, which collaborated in the countless crimes of the shah, not only refused to pay the slightest attention to the just wishes of the fraternal Iranian people, but resorted to the customary methods of the imperialist world, that is, a policy of aggression and political, economic and military threats, and a continuation of its military provocations against the Islamic government of Iran.

In addition to other hostile measures against the masses of the region and Iran, which are contrary to the accepted principles of international law, U.S. imperialism mobilized its naval forces in the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf and embarked on military preparations for invasions in the states of this region for the sake of their plundering interests, whose (smell of oil) has [words indistinct] the ruling circles and American monopolies on the other side of the world in order to divert from its course the Islamic and anti-imperialist revolution of the Iranian toilers. But the struggling and freedom-loving people of Iran continue their fight against the aggressive imperialist maneuvers.

If the renegade and debased shah of Iran is an agent of corruption on earth, Hafizollah Amin was no less savage than the bloodthirsty shah, and in some cases even exceeded the savage shah. He committed crimes against our freedom-loving people of a magnitude rarely witnessed in history. The bloodthirsty shah of Iran, and the renegade criminal, Hafizollah Amin, are both agents of corruption on earth. It is the undeniable right of the peoples of the fraternal Muslim countries of Iran and Afghanistan to give the imperialists a stern and historic reply. The people of Afghanistan are determined, under the leadership of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, to defend to the last breath their freedom, independence, territorial integrity, national sovereignty and their own path to economic and social development.

Just as the Iranian freedom-loving people are resolved to adopt a principled, decisive revolutionary stand against the military and fascist maneuvers of U.S. imperialism, the struggling people of Afghanistan, whose will has never been defeated throughout history by any plundering power, will pursue their revolutionary struggle in order to solve the difficulties stemming from the rule of the criminal Amin band and construct a blossoming society that will bring benefits for all.

The vital interests of the people of the region require us to decisively frustrate through united action the ominous imperialist plans and the insane military provocations which enjoy the support of the treacherous Chinese reactionaries in this crisis-ridden region and this political [word indistinct] of the world, which needs more than anything else peace and tranquility and fruitful regional cooperation. It is the will of the struggling and anti-imperialist people of the region to take steps in this direction in a clear and unhesitating manner.

We are determined to keep aloft the banner of peace and friendship among nations despite the provocations and ominous conspiracies of the imperialist world.

The righteous path is victorious.

KABUL DAILY DISMISSES U.S. FOR RAISING ISSUE OF 'CRISIS'

BK241217 Kabul NEW TIMES in English 8 Jan 80 p 2 BK

[Editorial: "Carter Paddling Towards Cold War"]

[Text] Using, of late, increasingly the legend of a threat from the "East", spread by imperialism over more than 60 years, the NATO powers and the United States' recent hullabaloo on the legitimate Soviet assistance to the people of Afghanistan, at the time of havoc is nothing but a cover for their own designs,

The entrenchment of imperialists and hegemonists against the legitimate Soviet aid to Afghan people, which is in consonance with the UN Charter and in no way transgresses the non-alignment principles, is to use it as a parachute for landing in the internal affairs of a sovereign country--Afghanistan.

It is remarkable that the events that have taken place in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan have been pinpointed by the United States as all but the main pretext for raising the so-called issue of 'Afghan crisis' at the international level. Is this not a gross interference and a blatant meddling in the internal affairs of a sovereign nation? The people alone and nobody else have the right to decide about the direction of its internal development and about the ways of building its relations with other states. Ironically America and her allies look on it differently.

U.S. imperialism and its NATO allies have never got a clean exit from any country. They are well-known for their being "uninvited guests" in Asia, Africa and Latin America. More than once imperialism provoked acute international crises, which brought mankind to the brinks of a thermonuclear holocaust. But today the existing balance of power in the international arena has to be reckoned with. Without renouncing the preparation for a world conflict, imperialism--American imperialism in particular, teamed up with China, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Egypt and the NATO states--is proceeding to foment a volatile situation in the region.

However, it is impossible to attain the end of reversing the development of the historical process. The long drawnout war in Vietnam was the most convincing proof of the discrepancy between the aggressive plans of imperialism and its ability to carry them out.

What could be derived from this is Mr. Carter and his advisers are apparently intended to plunge the world again into the abyss of cold war. The U.S. administration is bent on dealing a blow to the policy of detente which had been achieved thanks to the peaceful policy of the Soviet Union. Now when Washington has turned its eyes towards the direction of Peking it should remember the admonition of Willy Brandt who in a recent interview with a Cologne daily has said: "We should make allout efforts to extend detente beyond Europe and Soviet assistance to Afghanistan must not be used as the reason against continuation of efforts toward detente under any conditions."

The so-called 'Afghan crisis' today is a replay of the drama imperialist powers staged in Indochina in yesteryears, such as arming and then take the issue to the United Nations to justify themselves. However, we ardently hope the United States and its allies will tone down their aggressive propaganda and will not advocate any further interference in the internal affairs of a developing non-aligned country. Hands off Afghanistan.

KABUL NEW TIMES: U.S. SHEDS CROCODILE TEARS OVER ISLAM

BK241412 Kabul NEW TIMES in English 9 Jan 80 p 2 BK

[Editorial: "U.S. Shedding Crocodile Tears for Islam"]

[Text] Ever since the commencement of the new phase of the Saur Revolution in Afghanistan which happily resulted in the toppling of tyrant Hafizollah Amin and the ushering of a new era of democratic rights and freedoms for the people of Afghanistan, Washington has been greatly upset.

It has been making desperate efforts to misinterpret Soviet aid to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan as a "gross violation of the sovereign rights of an independent country", a "brazen aggression" and an "open intervention" in the internal affairs of a smaller neighbor on the part of Moscow.

The various gigantic American wire services feeding thousands of local and foreign radio stations and newspapers at the behest of the State Department and the Pentagon clamour daily that a "legitimate government" has been toppled in DRA and a "legitimate president" executed through a "Moscow-engineered coup" as a result of which Islam has been greatly imperiled and DRA's both neighbors, Pakistan and Iran are "threatened".

The fact that the Soviet assistance had been asked on the basis of the treaty of friendship, good neighborliness and cooperation of December 8, 1978, refutes the allegations concerning "violation of sovereign rights", "aggression" and "intervention", even if Washington goes back on its own word and now attributes legitimacy to Amin's government, what about the still valid treaty between the DRA and the USSR.

But as long as Washington continues to support blood hounds like the shah of Iran and Pinochet of Chile it would not change its mind or mitigate its futile support to fallen Amin no matter how many thousands of his own countrymen had fallen victim to butchery or shoved into prison cells. The fact is that the United States has always sided with fascists.

Supposing that the new phase of the Saur Revolution was engineered elsewhere which nowadays constitutes the abode of almost all national democratic revolutionary leaders persecuted by oppressive regimes in their respective countries, who engineered the revolution in Iran? [as received]

Due to the fact that Ayatollah Khomeyni had spent the last days of his exile in Paris, was it engineered by the Quay d'Orsay?

The presence of a limited Soviet military cointingent in Afghanistan on a temporary basis may not constitute a danger to either Pakistan or Iran because it is not here to commit aggression. It is intended to help a friendly neighbor to ward off external raids so that the DRA may be able to implement the new phase of the Saur Revolution which has not only promised, but has also actually granted the people their democratic rights and freedoms.

If a peace-loving country like the DRA which has, since the inception of the Saur Revolution, extended its hand of friendship toward both Pakistan and Iran, asks a staunch supporter of peace on a global level to extend military aid to it to accomplish a definite mission, how could this be interpreted as a "threat" to its neighbors which have not yet sounded any alarm regarding their security?

Should the United States be so worried about the future of Islam by the onrush of social democracy and justice, then it can help the poorer Muslim nations to raise their standards of living. But it won't, because Washington has always been ruled by the military-industrial complex which has been consistently after triggering large-scale wars to sell more arms and make more profits.

The hue and cry raised by Washington for the future of Afghan Muslims has been aptly assessed by AL-NIDA' of Beirut. Commenting in its January 7, 1980, issue on U.S. political course in the Near and the Middle East, it says the United States is making use of the developments in Afghanistan, developments which are purely of internal nature. What the U.S. militarism really intends, the paper goes on "is to restore its position and deliver a blow at the policy of detente and the curbing of the arms race and cover up its military interference in the Middle East".

AL-NIDA' adds "it is perfectly clear already that the United States is availing itself of the situation to create its military bases in Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia and other countries."

We would like to say that should Washington be really interested in the fate of Muslims, why is it laying siege on Iran through its aggressive fleet making arrangements for its economic blockade?

We support the antiimperialist stand which Washington may not like and raise more hue and cry against us. And an independent country after ensuring its own rights does not give a hoot if another nation does not think very highly of its approach as far as its own policies are concerned so long as these are peaceful and in the interest of its own people and those of the region and the world.

PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIAL REPORTS KABUL 'CALM'

ID241421 Lisbon AVANTE! in Portuguese 17 Jan 80 p 12 ID

[Portuguese Communist Party--PCP--Central Committee member Joaquim Pires Jorge "Letter from Kabul"--first three grafs introductory]

[Text] In connection with the events in Afghanistan, the Western news media dominated by imperialism have unleashed over the last few days an intensive Washington-orchestrated campaign of anti-Soviet and anticommunist propaganda on real cold war lines. But the facts are disregarded under the torrents of words: The imperialist propaganda is aimed at obsuering people's perceptions and imposing opinions, and not at really informing truthfully by supplying the public with objective facts to enable it to form its own opinion.

What is really happening in Afghanistan? What is that people--temporarily and hypocritically transformed by imperialist and reactionary propaganda into the center of attraction for world interest--currently thinking and doing?

PCP Central Committee member Joaquim Pires Jorge has visited Kabul. He went there and stayed for several days on the PCP Central Committee's instructions in order to inform himself on the spot and to be able to inform the party about the situation in the country. The "Letter from Kabul" which we publish below summarizes the first impressions gathered at first hand by Pires Jorge and has the value of a direct testimony.

Kabul--During the last days of the second week in January, events very significant for the development and consolidation of democratic power in Afghanistan took place. One of them was the election of a new Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, its political committee and its secretary general, Babrak Karmal, who simultaneously holds the posts of chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister. Subsequently, the new government was also formed, and it is to be emphasized that three of the ministers (those of agriculture, commerce and health) do not belong to the party.

Another important event was the holding 10 January of a press conference attended by about 200 correspondents of newspapers and television channels from throughout the world, including those of the United States, at which Babrak Karmal, after a brief statement, placed himself at the disposal of the journalists present. He answered all the questions--some of which were aggressive and tinged with provocation--with the confidence, calm and resolve characteristic of a leader who trusts the people and whom the people trust.

So far, 10,000 prisoners (4,000 in Kabul and 6,000 in the rest of the country) have been released, and this has given rise to several demonstrations of popular support for the government. These prisoners were imprisoned by Amin--a lackey of the Americans, who promised the people of Afghanistan socialism within 10 years but imprisoned patriots without trial or charges and was paving the way for leaving the country at the mercy of the imperialists.

In my contacts with party leaders and other personalities I have had the opportunity to ascertain everybody's confidence in their country's future and at the same time awareness that reaction has not yet been completely defeated.

They know that they must tackle the age-old backwardness and end illiteracy and the humiliating position of women, who constitute half of the population and cannot take part in the country's political and social life. They know that they must surmount many obstacles in order to set the country on the path of progress and that they must continue the fight against the armed mercenary groups and the reactionary forces, supported by the U.S. imperialists and their Beijing henchmen, until they are crushed.

The presence of Soviet military forces in Afghanistan constitutes no problem for the people as imperialist propaganda is seeking to make people believe. The people know that aid has long been given by the Soviet Union in the economic, scientific, technical and other fields; the people know that the invited presence of a limited contingent of Soviet military personnel is necessary to crush the enemy and to defend free and independent Afghanistan.

The presence of this contingent is due to an explicit request from the present government under the treaty of friendship, good-neighborliness and cooperation signed by the two sides in 1978. This document asserts the need to guarantee the defense of peace in this region and stresses that to this end every step will be taken to guarantee Afghanistan's security and independence.

The Soviet authorities themselves have stated that the Soviet troops will leave Afghanistan as soon as the threats of an armed intervention from abroad have disappeared. In countries neighboring Afghanistan there are camps of mercenaries where these are given intensive military training. This fact is well known. In the meantime, slanders and lies are being fabricated in these same countries with the aim of misleading the peoples of the entire world and of pursuing their policy against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Our stay in Kabul and visits to various places in and around the city, including a prison 25 km from the capital in order to witness the release of prisoners, enable us to state that life there is calm and we do not seem to be in a city where the patriotic forces, with popular support, recently overthrew Amin's terrorist regime.

The mosques are open for worship, the population throngs the streets, the street hawkers offer their wares, the bootblacks attend to their customers, the barbers cut people's hair in the open air and music can be heard on the streets. On the roads, the traffic of cars and of goods and passenger trucks is heavy. The bazaars and other establishments are doing business, except for the tourist shops. These and their sales, as well, have declined in number. The owners of these shops are not pleased.

Obviously, government buildings are guarded by military forces, but there is no warlike display. The nights are calm and the armored vehicles can scarcely be heard passing on their regular patrols. The population goes to bed early in a city like this, at about 2,000 meters above sea level, which is surrounded--very closely--by high, snow-covered mountains, and where the temperature falls very suddenly at nightfall. The cold is intense in this month of January, especially after the sun--which has shone here every day--has set.

In short, the more unwary foreigner might not even notice what is happening here. But the more alert observer perceives that the government has the power and the initiative in its hands, which is a very good sign. And he also perceives that a path is beginning to be traveled which will not be easy but will end backwardness in Afghanistan to give way to a new, modern and progressive society.

KARMAL ACTED TO FORESTALL MASSACRE PLANNED BY AMIN

ID250925 Paris L'HUMANITE in French 19 Jan 80 p 6 ID

[Martine Monod dispatch: "The Massacre Was to Have Taken Place 2 January"]

[Text] Kabul, 18 January--Nadjih, a 19-year-old science student and People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] member, spent 2 months in the Pol-e Charikhi prison after 4 days' torture by the secret police, including whippings, electric shocks and the breaking of his toes. He was freed 28 December, the day after Amin fell. For him as for all his imprisoned comrades, the 27 December rising was a lifesaver.

As events become gradually clearer and facts emerge from the realm of shadow and confusion, it turns out that Amin's plan was to get rid of his most resolute opponents, namely those in his own party. Whether this was, as the PDPA and state leaders affirm, to compromise the USSR and socialism in the population's eyes by associating them with a hateful policy, or whether it was for some other more "primitive" reason connected to a medieval vision of power, Amin did not want to displease the Soviets too openly. Thus his revolutionary speeches hiding his terrible deeds.

It now seems that the USSR had already shown concern at the "Amin supporters'" vendettas and the magnitude of the arrests at all social levels. An alibi had to be found therefore to liquidate the leaders and party members held prisoner, especially Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand (now Revolutionary Council vice president, deputy prime minister and planning minister), Mohammad Rafi' (now defense minister) Gen 'Abdol Qader (now Revolutionary Council presidium member) and their comrades.

The Plot

On 2 January, the day after the anniversary of the PDPA's formation, Amin planned to announce the Pol-e Charkhi prisoners' freedom. They were to leave by doors leading onto the firing range where the 15th armored division was training. Amin's supporters were to spread the rumor among the army that a mass breakout was planned and that the prisoners were going to climb the prison walls.

The arguments put to them remain unclear, but the carefully premediated aim was that the army, as accomplice or deceived, should launch a widescale massacre, wiping out the country's political as well as much of its intellectual elite. It was because they had news of this plan from loyalists secretly infiltrated into Amin's party that the PDPA leaders, with Babrak Karmal and soldiers loyal to the revolution, are thought to have decided to act as early as 27 December. This information was reportedly corroborated 28 December by a high-ranking Amin supporter responsible for army propaganda when he surrendered to the progressive forces.

One can easily see how such events would have rocked the Afghan nation. With wounds still open, divisions within the country and splits within the PDPA, one of the government's first jobs will be to restore the nation's unity in the face of the imperialist and counterrevolutionary threat.

The Afghan big bourgeoisie sheltering abroad has not given up thoughts of reconquest, since it is assured of U.S. support. And if the situation has calmed considerably and infiltrations from Pakistan have slowed, the danger is nonetheless not over. U.S. and Chinese weapons have been captured. The terrorism of the Muslim Brotherhood--for this is what it is--is still claiming victims.

Information put out by certain major Western news media borders on fantasy. Kabul, notably, is calm. To be sure, imperialism and its Afghan accomplices still hope to destabilize the country.

Against them, the concept of the antifeudal, anti-imperialist national front, popularized by President Karmal and government statements, is gaining ground. "The broad front of the motherland," as Babrak Karmal calls it, is to comprise all the national forces, both as movements and as individuals, and associations, religious groups and political parties can join it.

USSR COMMANDER SAYS NO SOVIETS HAVE DIED

LD241137 Rome L'ESPRESSO in Italian 20 Jan 80 pp 30-32 LD

[Giancesare Flesca report on 8 January press conference in Kabul given by unnamed Soviet "Supreme commander": "Among the Attackers and the Attacked"]

[Excerpts] Kabul--His troops are not the ones which for a while made the world fear war and which have now made it regress to cold war. Nor are they responsible for the suspension of the SALT agreements, the return to a cold climate and public alarm. His troops did not invade and occupy a country which was at least formally independent and neutral, which is how Afghanistan appeared. All they are doing here is carrying out what he calls a "remedial operation."

Indeed, they can be regarded as a kind of traffic police of the revolution: There goes Amin and here come Karmal, while they simply control the traffic and wave the red disk [used by Italian traffic patrols] at any "imperialist conspiracy." This is what the supreme commander of the Soviet forces in Afghanistan confidentially told a very select group of journalists who flew from Moscow precisely to follow his activities.

The general is tall and sprightly and of course has a baritone voice. His name was not revealed: It does not matter: He might even be called Petrov, like his colleague who led the Soviet offensive in Ethiopia. His was a shorter journey, however. He took only a few days to bring 80,000 soldiers across the border, thus informing the world that Moscow considers the era of detente finished. Furthermore, his men are proper soldiers with uniforms, bayonets and red stars, just like the MFE in Stalingrad or, if you prefer, Budapest and Prague--not "military advisers" like the ones who fought in the Horn of Africa. They arrived from the north aboard Antonovs or in long armored convoys, occupied the main cities and the most important lines of communication and encircled the guerrilla fighters without, however, hunting them down or being hunted down by them. What about the battles, the hand-to-hand fighting, the blown-up tanks and helicopters? It is all lies and propaganda from the usual Western press. According to the general, his men have suffered not a single death or casualty and have fired only a few shots here and there. A remedial, traffic police operation, in fact.

This is what the general told the comrade journalists at the fireside in the hall of the same Kabul hotel where a few months ago the U.S. ambassador was killed in mysterious circumstances. From what the journalists following the troops have seen, this could all be true. Since they arrived on 6 January the Afghan capital has seemed calm, the night curfew is not disturbed by even distant shots or explosions and the Soviet presence is barely perceptible.

Those of us who have come here by road from the Pakistan border were able to hear, before the famous Khyber Pass, the sometimes confused accounts of survivors and refugees, who spoke of thousands of dead and furious battles underway in almost all the provinces. As we traveled Afghanistan's principal highway, from the Khyber Pass to Jalalbad and Kabul, the traces of fighting were minimal: A few uprooted trees left lying across the road in the hope of halting the advance of the tanks, which now flank the road on both sides for almost the whole of its 250 km.

These tanks, the Petrov of central Asia confessed somewhat wearily to the select journalists, were sent here unwillingly. The Soviet Union, he said, had no desire to become embroiled in a red Vietnam. Above all the area of conflict follows extremely precarious borders and a Russian border violation into Pakistani territory would, the general said, be a very ugly incident to be avoided at all costs. Why then, one journalist dared to ask, did the intervention take place? The general spread his arms and looked around. Until a few years ago the hotel was the most important one in the capital and now it is literally falling apart. There is a telephone but it does not work--not even for local calls; the heating is intermittent (partly because the rebel's presence on the mountains stopped supplies of firewood to Kabul) and it is difficult to find anything edible in the restaurant. We are right in the city center but the main entrance has to be guarded by armed soldiers and on every floor, instead of the "matushkas" who defend public morality in Soviet hotels, there are soldiers with machineguns at the ready.

Judging from their uniforms you would think they were Afghan troops, but more likely they are good soldiers who have come from the USSR and been made to don another uniform for the sake of appearances. In fact the men in the Kabul Hotel are apparently the only Afghan troops still with rifles: Everywhere else in the country they were disarmed on the Soviets' arrival as a precaution by the ceremonial and traffic police. In fact the various units had gained the bad habit of shooting at each other to join the rebels or of shooting at each other, obeying one general's orders rather than another's.

How could we have left the country in the hands of such people? the general seemed to be asking, with his embarrassed glance and silence. How could great Russia permit barely organized gangs, some raised by China or others but more often obedient only to tribal laws, to eliminate a regime implanted and blessed by the Kremlin? What would have been the consequences of such a failure in Asia and throughout the Third World? "When a train starts to move," the general said, "you cannot stop it just because there are bad people on board, apart from the good people. The train of the Afghan revolution has started moving and we cannot allow it to stop just because not all its passengers' documents are in order."

In fact, ever since this revolution started moving way back in April 1978, there have been very few passengers with their documents in order. The various successive fathers of the fatherland have given very little evidence of political ability, but have on the other hand distinguished themselves in the most ruthless power struggles. At the end of the latest struggle Babrak Karmal arrived on board the Soviet tanks, strangely, the general seems somewhat fatalistic even of him. But was this not the reserve troop kept secretly by Moscow since June 1978 when Karmal was exiled? Was he not the party's most brilliant, intellectual and brightest mind?

ANANITA CITED ON APPROACH TO INTERVIEW SITE

IP241109 Rome I ANANITA An. Taliban 20 Jan 80 p 18 ID

[Carlo Benedetti report: "This is the view from Kabul on Afghan's Tragic Experience"]

[Excerpts] Ananita Babekzad, Afghanistan's first lady, who has risen to the summit of political power as a member of the People's Democratic Party Politburo, as education minister and as a close aide of Babrak Karmal, has confirmed "errors and excesses." She said that current policy will be based on observance of the country's reality, traditions and Islam, pointing out that "in the past" an attempt was made to "move forward too fast with tragic forms of radicalism." Now, she announced, "we will work practically and realistically," without so many slogans and distortions. In practice the "April Revolution" dates back to December, that is to the time when "the fascist Amin, the U.S. agent" was killed and his place taken by "Comrade Babrak Karmal" (though this episode is also obscure and dramatic).

Ananita Babekzad's appearance was extremely significant. It was the first time during my stay in Afghanistan that the country's events had been explained without fear or censorship. For that matter, the very content of our meeting was indicative of a certain climate. The ministry building, a colonial-style edifice, was almost under siege by a crowd of women, 1,000, 2,000, with their traditional shawls and their faces covered with a veil, but also wearing European-style clothing.

They were there to seek advice and help from the "first lady," who represents the government. And the conversations took place in a room where the door is always open: the "comrade minister" received, replied and resolved. Then came our conversation. We tackled the heart of the matter right away: "In some areas of the country," she said, "the situation is not yet normal. Many people, however, are beginning to realize that the government is establishing itself. We will have to fight and defend ourselves. It will be tough, especially because the domestic conditions are of those of backwardness and poverty. We are an impoverished and illiterate people. We lack everything."

Far From Reality

Next came the critical part, the analysis of the problems created by the revolution and left unresolved by Taraki and subsequently aggravated by Amin. Amshita Batehrad, who was also talking on the Politburo's behalf, pinpointed the first serious point in connection with literacy. During Daud's presidency (until April 1978) activity was undertaken to install an education system. But the approach was wrong. The starting point was obligatory courses, with texts which did not respect the traditions, and an attempt was made to impose an education system divorced a thousand miles from the Afghan and Islamic reality. Under Taraki things got no better: The propaganda effort was not matched by a similar pedagogic commitment. The process which it is intended to introduce now is entirely different. First, because the importance of Islam as a pivotal topic has been realized.

The minister said that people will be taught to read and write on the basis of the Quran. Religious texts will be distributed by the ministry like primers and will be promoted both by the teachers and the mullahs and mullahs. The education process should involve everyone—but spontaneously: "We will not drag anyone to school, and the few schools which do appear will continue to segregate boys and girls. No traditions will be violated. Only those on military service will be obliged to learn to read and write, obviously proceeding from the Quran. Thus the young soldier will on his return to his village, be the best promoter of education.

"It might seem strange to you Westerners," the minister added, "but the Quran itself will help us win a battle for progress.... For that matter, there is a passage which says that only those who can read can reach Beijing.... But of course this involves no political implications, which would in any case be incomprehensible at a popular level. For a Muslim, to reach Beijing means managing to go far. So everything will be busy with texts from the Quran."

The first test of this literacy campaign will be a teachers conference in Kabul in April, to discuss the new curriculum. But one thing is certain: There will be no books from other countries, no repetition of other teaching experiments. This warning is important because, given the familiarity with ethnic groups of neighboring countries (those of Soviet Asia, for instance), ideas of using existing texts might emerge. But in that case—in the case of Soviet books—the texts would be full of reference to Lenin and expressions extolling communism. Local texts with no red flags will therefore be prepared. Moreover, the minister said, "we will try to create an Afghan spirit, a local patriotism, taking into account the vastness and complexity of the Islamic world."

Asadollah Keshmand, editor of the official newspaper and brother of Politburo member and vice president of the republic Soltan 'Ali, told me: "You Westerners must understand our political, economic and also geographical situation. The country can leave feudalism behind, it can only free itself from its centuries-old backwardness with a slow, very slow, process of reform. But to do this we need new people who can keep abreast of requirements. And this, always bearing in mind religion." I was told the same by young people from the university and polytechnic.

LE MONDE CITES PREDICTION OF SPRING 'EXPLOSION'

ID241527 Paris LE MONDE in French 23 Jan 80 pp 1,3 ID

[Patrick Frances Kabul dispatch: "A Country Under Stringent Control"]

[Excerpt] The Soviet omnipresence--a de facto occupation--is really the essential factor in the present situation. In the eyes of the great majority of the Afghan people, the country is now occupied, closely supervised and controlled by kafirs (infidels). It follows that this presence is felt as a continuous provocation. To realize this it is sufficient to observe, for instance, the glances cast at Soviets walking along Chicken Street, Kabuls' shopping street, unaware of the situation.

"The Afghans do have a sense of dignity and pride," a Westerner resident in Kabul emphasized. "Perhaps it is a system of values which prevailed in the Middle Ages but if you ignore, despise or defy it you are bound to make mistakes and offend people, thus inflicting wounds which, the Afghans believe, ineluctably call for redress." "For instance," this person added, "disarming an Afghan is tantamount to denying him. It is an act which greatly humiliates him."

Therefore, irrespective of the reasons invoked to justify Soviet intervention (no one here attaches any credence to the assertion that the rebel movements threatened on the regime), this intervention has taken the form of the presence on Afghan soil of a foreign body against which a rejection phenomenon is developing. Especially since everybody points out the embarrassed explanations given by the authorities when asked to explain clearly who had asked the "sincere great friend," that is the USSR, for "material and moral aid."

Furthermore, some other factors are beginning to play a role in the opposition to the Soviet presence, factors especially important because they concern the Afghan people's daily life. For instance, a sudden surge of the prices of certain essential products including oil, meat, rice and wood. In fact, these rises have sometimes been a result of other factors (the rebels' activities have interfered with supplies of wood) but in the eyes of the people the connection is obvious--the kafirs, that is the Soviets, are to blame.

In a country in which small businesses play a leading role in the economy, any slowing down of or, especially, complete halt in transactions looks like economic strangulation for which the Soviets are again blamed. This is the case not only in Kabul but also in the provinces--where at deserted streetstalls Afghan traders blame Soviet soldiers encamped round the city for it all.

A Regime Without Popular Base

Faced with a slowly deteriorating situation and with this underhand resistance to Soviet presence, what can the new regime do? The main objectives of Babrak Karmal's policy are: A unified party, that is a party in which "the hostile brothers"--members of two former organizations, the Parchamis and the Khalqis--would cooperate; a national front which would also include liberal elements, mullahs and intellectuals; continuation of the agrarian reform and action aimed at the emancipation of women, even though in a more restrained and progressive manner; development of small industry and handicrafts within a private ownership framework and with acceptance of some profits; freedom of speech, right of assembly and freedom to demonstrate; press freedom; pluralism and, finally, a hand extended to Islam and an appeal urging it to cooperate with the new regime. Furthermore, the color and the emblem of the flag are to be changed soon.

"This program," a keen observer of the Afghan political scene explained, "was good, very good. However, it has become irrelevant because when Khomeyni tells the Afghan leaders that he will engage in discussions with them once the Russian tanks have gone home, he expresses the feelings of almost all Afghan people." And he added: "The new regime has no popular base. No one believes in it. It has been installed by the Russians and remains in power only thanks to the Russians." A feeling which can only be strengthened by the sight of Chelakstan, Karmal's residence just outside Kabul, a real fortified camp under Soviet soldiers' powerful protection.

Thus the new regime seems profoundly cut off from the population and most of the Khalq faction, sworn of this radical secession, is currently said to be making common cause with the people. As for the Parcham faction, which has never been closely linked to the masses, it does not seem about to restore a climate of confidence between leaders and grass roots.

In addition, some believe that the Gulf can only widen and the leadership's ties with the Soviets, moreover, will simply strengthen. "To counter a more than likely terrorism a new police machinery will be set up and the prisons will again be full," it is affirmed from time to time. Certain Khalq members guarantee that "Babrak will not live long."

"Death to the Russians!"

As for the rebel movements, everyone agrees that they never amounted to much and that they still do not. But, they add, the Soviet presence in this sphere risks serious repercussions. When faced with tanks and artillery, they point out, you start to fight.

Moreover, clandestine pamphlets are distributed practically every night in Kabul. "Did you get the night newspaper?" is asked more and more in Kabul in the morning. Some of these pamphlets state that even if the country people revolt the cities and especially the capital remain apathetic. "What are you waiting for?" they ask.

An Afghan national liberation front pamphlet on high-quality paper and in almost classical Persian recently presented a measured account of Taraki's regime and a much more violent one of Amin, before launching itself against "the Soviet invasion" and finishing with the call: "Death to the Russians! Death to Brezhnev!"

Other pamphlets call the population to strike. Some ask women to stay home. On Sunday afternoon, a normal working day, it turned out that absenteeism was running at 50 percent in local Education Ministry departments. The spread of these "night papers" is thus a relatively new phenomenon (perhaps they already existed but were not spoken about) and an important one in that they have established a means of communication between the rebellion and the population.

There is one more essential factor in the Afghan context: winter. A harsh winter freezes everything, starting with the rebels. "Actually," you are told, "they are passive. They are dying of cold and hunger, and one Kalashnikov cartridge is worth 200 Afghans or 10 kilos of rice. The Russians are on the offensive. They control the major routes and the valleys, but they have already clashed with the people in Kabul, Gandahar and Herat. This will happen again, in Jalalabad next." In fact, whether or not some rule out a strike in the Kabul bazar in the coming week or others believe that by the end of the month "something political will happen," most observers believe that the explosion will occur in spring, in March or April. "Unless, by then, the Russians kindly withdraw their forces...." One of those talking to us adds with a little smile.

A Frenchman working in Kabul for several years finishes by confiding to us: "I am highly pessimistic. I see no way out. Afghanistan today is a time bomb. A real powder keg which is going to explode."

WFI CORRESPONDENT INTERVIEWS LAND REFORM MINISTER

LD242112 Budapest WFI in English 1752 GMT 24 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Budapest, January 24, WFI--WFI correspondent reports from Kabul:

"We have begun the second stage of land reform. This week coincides with the second phase of our revolution after the changes. It will need years for realizing our goals," said Fazl Rahim Mohammad, agriculture and land reform minister of Afghanistan, in an interview given to WFI.

The minister summed up in three points the aims of the land reform launched in the country on January 1, 1975.

"First of all, we aimed at eliminating the ossified feudal production conditions. Secondly, we wanted to make the agrarian proletariat aware of the identity of interests they share with artisans and the industrial labour. Thirdly we wanted to establish a modern production structure with the aim of improving the food supply of our country, the production of raw [words indistinct] agricultural origin. All these are necessary so that we can try to change the agricultural export and import structure of Afghanistan".

"What have we achieved in the past year? The first stage of land reform lasted for nearly six months, and we ended it a bit before the planned time; we have helped nearly 500,000 poor peasant families to receive land and we distributed more than 665,000 hectares of land.

"Depending on the quality of the land we stated seven categories already at the beginning, and one family was entitled to one hectare of first category land. Where the quality of land was poorer there we distributed more land according to the appropriate category. We also assured appropriate land for these smallholders whose land property did not reach the degree of legitimate claim.

"The allotted land cannot be sold, however, the direct descendant can inherit it if he cultivates it himself."

The minister said: One million families are engaged with land cultivation. "The numerical ratio of these big landowners whose land falls under the dispossession hardly reached 4 percent. That is to say dispossession affected only 40,000 families. Not all entitled peasant families received land, the reasons of this, however, was the restricted quantity of cultivated area. Our aim is that by beginning to cultivate the unutilized areas the claims of these families also be fulfilled."

The minister went on to say: "All this is only the first phase of the comprehensive program of land reform. In the realization of it, mainly during the presidency of Hafeezullah Amin, certain arbitrary action, distortions could be observed. This can be traced back to mainly that erroneous attitude, by which giving land to the peasants already solves the agrarian question in itself. The peasantry, unequipped or unfurnished with agricultural tools, without the adequate production experiences will continue to need increased assistance from our state in the future as well. The first stage was the land reform, that is the distribution of land. We hope that in the second stage we shall already be able to speak of agrarian reform. We still do not foresee many things, but the initial results are already encouraging. Specialized cooperatives, mutual aid societies have been established in the various parts of the country, which can serve as a starting base for establishing the cooperatives using more developed agricultural technology. Parallel with this we establish state model farms, which can serve as the demonstration and methodological bases for the use of progressive production methods, modern technology."

"The land reform, which appeared only in the promises of the previous system has an important factor in that the poor peasantry, a significant proportion of the country's population, sides with our system," said the minister in conclusion.

INDIA

DELHI RADIO REPORTS FRENCH PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL

RE250752 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 27 Jan 80 BK

[Text] The French president, Mr Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, was given a warm and cordial welcome on his arrival in New Delhi today. The President, the prime minister and her cabinet colleagues were at the airport to receive the distinguished guest. Also present were the three service chiefs and members of the diplomatic corps. A 21-gun salute was given and an interservices guard of honor was presented to the French president.

Welcoming Mr Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the president, Mr Sanjiva Reddy, said that in welcoming his India hosts a statesman of vision who is deeply receptive of the current time and challenges faced by the developing countries. He hoped that the visit of the French president will provide an opportunity for consolidating the spirit of cooperation and understanding which exists between the two countries.

Mr Giscard in his reply said that his talks with the Indian leaders are taking place at a difficult time for the world and particularly for Asia.

The French president is on a 5-day official visit to this country.

SPOKESMAN COMMENTS ON CARTER SUGGESTION ON AFGHANISTAN

BK250859 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0853 GMT 25 Jan 80 BK

[Text] A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi on January 24 that India would be willing to consider any initiative to defuse crisis and tension created by developments in Afghanistan, reports PTI.

Any initiative to be taken by India would be aimed at creating a situation which would not further exacerbate tension in the region. The spokesman was commenting on U.S. President Jimmy Carter's suggestion on January 23 that his country was prepared to work with "other nations" in the region to share a cooperative security framework and respect different values and political beliefs.

ISI: RAO, GROMYKO TO DISCUSS AFGHAN DEVELOPMENTS

BK241557 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1500 GMT 24 Jan 80 BK

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko will pay a 3-day visit to India from February 12, External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao announced in the Rajya Sabha on January 24, reports UNI [United News of India]. Besides India-Soviet bilateral relations, the situation in Afghanistan and the presence of Soviet troops would come up for a detailed review.

MUSLIM LEADERS CALL FOR BOYCOTT OF MOSCOW OLYMPICS

BK241241 Delhi THE INDIAN EXPRESS in English 21 Jan 80 p 4 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 20 Jan (EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE)--Leaders of various Muslim organizations in India today strongly condemned the Russian attack on Afghanistan and demanded that Mrs Indira Gandhi unequivocally criticize the "USSR aggression."

Speaking at a public meeting in town hall here, Muslim leaders expressed their annoyance over the stand the government had taken on the issue. Some of them condemned Mrs Gandhi for not taking a clear stand.

Maulana Hamid Hussain, secretary of Jamiat-e-Islami, said it was a lie on the part of Russia to say that Afghanistan had invited its forces. The Russians have attacked Afghanistan to expand their base, he alleged. He said if Mrs Gandhi was a democrat and believed in the policy of peaceful co-existence and human rights, she must condemn Russia for its blatant aggression on Afghanistan. He demanded that the peace and friendship treaty with Russia be abrogated unilaterally if it stood in the way of India siding with the valiant Afghan people.

The maulana called upon Muslims in India to bring about a situation whereby the government would be forced to take a strong line against the Russian aggressors.

"If Islam is dear to you, you must stake your lives for the Muslim brothers and sisters of Afghanistan." He exhorted the jam-packed audience to the thunderous cries of "Allah o Akbar."

Maulana Hamiduddin, a Muslim leader from Andhra Pradesh, asked Muslims in the country to stage massive demonstrations outside the Russian Embassy in New Delhi. He said the Indian Muslims must be ready to shed blood for the sake of Islam. How could Mrs Gandhi ignore the voice of scores of Muslims in the country? he asked angrily.

Mr Ahmed Ali Qasmi, secretary of the Muslim Majlis Musawaret, asked Muslims not to forget that Islam was in danger. "We are Muslim first and it is our duty to support Islam anywhere in the world," he said in a voice choked with emotion. He attacked what he called the Russians aggressors in the soil of Muslims. He asked the union government to come out openly in support of Afghanistan.

Mr Atauliah, secretary of Jamiat Ahle Adis, said time had come for all Muslim brothers in the world to unite. India, he said, could not afford to sit quiet because it might itself become victim of aggression one day, he warned.

A resolution passed at the meeting said: "It is the unanimous opinion of the meeting that the massive armed involvement of the Soviet Union is nothing short of aggression against the people of Afghanistan by an outside power." It called upon countries who voted in favour of the UN resolution on Afghanistan to boycott the Olympic games if the Soviet Union did not withdraw its forces from Afghanistan immediately. It also called upon the union India to take an unequivocal stand on the issue.

Olympic Association Supports Games

BK250547 Hong Kong AFP in English 051 GMT 25 Jan 80 HK

[Text] New Delhi, 25 Jan (AFP)--India has spelled out its support for holding the 1980 Olympic games in Moscow. The President of the semi-official Indian Olympic Association, O.P. Mehra, dismissed as untenable U.S. President Jimmy Carter's call for a boycott or relocation in reaction to the Soviet presence in Afghanistan. Indian news reports today quoted Mr. Mehra as saying that sports should be kept clear of politics as stipulated by the charter of the international Olympic movement.

TIES WITH USSR PRAISED AT SOVIET EMBASSY FUNCTION

BK250520 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jan 80 HK

[Text] The Soviet ambassador to India, Mr Y.M. Vorontsov, has said that the Soviet Union has responded to the request of the Afghan Government because if it had not done so it would have meant leaving Afghanistan a prey to imperialism. Mr. Vorontsov was speaking at a function organized by the cultural department of the USSR Embassy in New Delhi to mark the 30th anniversary of the Indian Republic.

Addressing the meeting, the information and broadcasting minister Mr Vasant Sathe described Indo-Soviet ties as everlasting. He said that relations between the two countries, which have grown through the ages, are immense and cannot be changed with the change of government.

The CPI [Communist Party of India] leader, Mr Indrajit Gupta, MP recalled the moral and material support given by the Soviet Union to India in times of crisis.

FURTHER ON RAO STATEMENT ON AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN

BK241052 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 24 Jan 80 HK

[Excerpt] Expressing the government's serious concern over the recent developments in Afghanistan, the external affairs minister said that India is against the presence of foreign troops and bases in any country. He expressed the hope that the Soviet forces will be withdrawn from Afghanistan.

About India's relations with Pakistan, Mr Rao referred to President Zia's mention of the Simla agreement in his message to Mrs Gandhi. He said this agreement is a basis of the efforts to normalize relations between the two countries. He pointed out that our region and neighborhood have been in turmoil for a long period. Working together with harmony and cooperation, we can do much to establish a climate of peace and stability in order to promote development for our collective benefits. He clarified that India will oppose all attempts by any power to turn the clock back and revert to an era of confrontation and cold war.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON SATHE VISIT, ARMS TO PAKISTAN

BK250430 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jan 80 BK

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr R.D. Sathe, is going to Islamabad on the 4th of next month for talks with the Pakistan Government to defuse the situation arising out of the Afghanistan developments. This has been announced in the Rajya Sabha by the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao.

He was replying to questions following a calling attention motion by Mr Devendra Nath Dwivedi, Congress-I and others. The motion relates to the serious developments following the decision of the United States and China to give massive arms aid to Pakistan in the wake of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Mr Narasimha Rao reiterated the government's serious concern over developments in Afghanistan. He explained India's abstention in the voting on the UN General Assembly resolution saying that it wanted to retain the initiative to be in a position to approach various parties concerned for a peaceful solution of the crisis. Mr Rao said India's objective is to bring about a defusing on all fronts and it was adopted a multipronged approach to a fast evolving situation.

What worries India most is the very idea of resuming arms flow into Pakistan, regardless of the extent of threat it may pose. Resumption of arms supplies to Islamabad by the superpowers can convert south Asia into a theater of big power confrontation, he said.

Gandhi on U.S. Arms to Pakistan

BK250432 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jan 80 BK

[Text] The prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, has said that the new American military aid to Pakistan will cause anxiety to all Indians because arms given to that country were always used against us. In an interview to French television, Mrs Gandhi said that more aid given to Islamabad will not improve the situation.

PAKISTAN

PRESIDENT ADDRESSES SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS

BK241654 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Jan 80 BK

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq today addressed senior officers of the armed forces, navy and air force at the National Defense College Auditorium in Rawalpindi on national and regional matters. The president apprised them of the latest situation concerning the external intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. He told the officers that the government is fully aware of the issue and is aware of its responsibilities for protection of political security and national interests. In this context, he praised the determination and spirit of the people to live as an independent and respected nation.

Following his address, the president replied to questions on national issues raised by the officers, which indicates that the members of the armed forces are interested in national issues and are determined to protect national independence at any cost.

Beside senior military officers, the meeting was also attended by the minister for home and political affairs, Mahmud A. Hardon, and the adviser on foreign affairs, Agha Shahi.

KARACHI REPORTS ON CARTER'S CALL TO REAFFIRM DEFENSE AGREEMENT

BK241708 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Jan 80 BK

[Excerpt] President Carter has said that he will ask Congress to reaffirm an executive agreement of 1959, under which the United States is committed to respond in the event of an attack on Pakistan.

Addressing the annual session of Congress last night, he said that the United States will take steps to provide aid to Pakistan against external aggression according to its law. The American President said that he was in contact with other countries to extend further military and economic aids to Pakistan. President Carter said that the United States will further consolidate its political and military ties with other countries of Southwest Asia and said that in his opinion there were no differences between the United States and the Islamic countries which could not be overcome. He said that the United States respects the Islamic religion and is ready to cooperate with all Islamic countries.

37 NATIONS TO ATTEND ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTER'S CONFERENCE

LD241625 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabid 24 Jan 80 pp 12 LD

[ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT report]

[Excerpt] Islamabad--The efforts exerted to bring about the success of the Islamic foreign ministers conference have begun to bear fruits now that some 37 states have announced their agreement to attend the conference. In the meantime, contacts are continuing with Syria, South Yemen, Libya and the PLO to persuade them to abandon their previous decision.

Algeria has announced that it will send a delegation to the conference despite the decision to the contrary adopted by the Steadfastness and Congronation Front. Iraq also has announced its intention to participate in the conference, which will convene on Saturday. Mali too has said that it will send its delegation today.

Afghanistan's announcement that it is sending a delegation to attend the conference has come as a surprise. This announcement, however, is expected to get a lukewarm reception from the rest of the participants because its representation, while it is under Soviet occupation, is illegitimate.

Conference May Be Postponed

BK241230 Hong Kong AFP in English 1227 GMT 24 Jan 80 BK

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 24 (AFP)--The Islamic conference may be postponed 24 hours so that it will not coincide with the full normalization of Israeli-Egyptian relations on Saturday, diplomatic sources said here today.

Pakistani sources did not confirm the report. They said that only Islamic Conference Secretary-General Habib Chatti, expected here today, can change the date of the meeting. Iran and several other countries want the conference postponed.

Islamic Organization Head Arrives

BK241644 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Jan 80 BK

[Text] The secretary general of the Islamic conference, Habib Chatti, has said that the Islamabad conference of foreign ministers of Islamic countries is being held at such a momentous and difficult time when an external power has militarily intervened in an independent and sovereign Islamic state. He was talking to newsmen on his arrival in Islamabad this evening. Mr Chatti, drawing the attention of the Islamic countries to the danger facing them and to the fact that the United Nations has adopted a resolution in this regard, said it is natural in this context that a conference of foreign ministers of Islamic countries should be held to assess the situation and take necessary steps. He thanked President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq for his invitation and said that Pakistan has remained at the forefront in the struggle for the solidarity of Islamic countries and the cause of Islam.

Asked whether there is a possibility that the conference will be postponed, Mr Chatti said that 33 countries have agreed to convene the conference on 26 January. However, if one country requests a postponement, this could be jointly examined by all members states.

The adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, who was present on the occasion, said the secretary general will present the issue, of whether the inaugural session of the conference will be held on the evening of the 26th or the morning of the 27th, to the members of the conference. There will be an official meeting on the morning of the 26th to organize the conference; this meeting will not be affected.

In reply to another question, Habib Chatti said he had just been informed that Iran has appealed for postponement of the conference. He will meet with the Iranian representative shortly and will find out when Iran plans to make a formal appeal for the postponement of the conference.

Our (?diplomatic) representative adds that Habib Chatti, accompanied by Agha Shahi, then met the Iranian charge d'affairs, (Mohammad Gunj Dost), at Islamabad airport.

Among those who have arrived in Islamabad to attend the Islamic conference meeting are two assistant secretaries generals of the conference, Mr (Qasim Jawhari) and (Mr Zafarul Islam), representatives of (?Cameroon), Senegal and Maldives have also arrived in the capital.

All arrangements for the conference have been completed. The federal minister, Lt General F. A. Chishti, who is the chairman of the preparatory section of the conference, today reviewed arrangements for housing and other facilities for the representatives.

ZIAUL HAQ SENDS CONDOLENCES TO KHOMEYNI ON PLANE CRASH

BK231025 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 23 Jan 80 BK

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has sent a message to Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeyni expressing heartfelt sympathy on the tragic air crash near Tehran 2 days ago.

COMMENTATOR REVIEWS RESULTS OF WALDHEIM'S VISIT

BK250617 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1715 GMT 24 Jan 80 BK

[News commentary by Aichtar Kiyani]

[Text] The unscheduled visit of the UN secretary general to Pakistan and his talks with the president, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, and other Pakistani leaders amply demonstrates the concern of the world body over the situation in the region. The visit followed the overwhelming desire of the United Nations, boldly and effectively expressed at the General Assembly meeting, to establish peace and amity in Afghanistan by the withdrawal of foreign troops from that country. Mr Kurt Waldheim has aptly described that the UN resolution supporting the Pakistan stand was an expression of the world community on the developments in Afghanistan. He also indicated that although the resolution has a moral force, the member countries which supported the resolution might back it up with whatever suitable action they choose to take.

The UN secretary general has expressed his complete satisfaction over his talks with President Ziaul Haq. He has pointed out that the talks were extremely rewarding in understanding the regional situation in this most sensitive part of the world. Dr Waldheim, who cut short his Asian visit, admitted that the whole international situation is tense. He is anxious to hold urgent consultations with the members of the Security Council before the weekend.

Mr Waldheim's concern is understandable. The United Nations was set up after the Second World War to eliminate the causes of friction which threaten the security and integrity of independent nations. Its main purpose has been to bring about sanity and (?stability) in this exasperating world and Mr Waldheim, the secretary general of the organization, holds a great responsibility. The situation in the region, as he has himself said, is fraught with danger. Therefore there is an urgent need to take a serious view of the entire developments and act promptly to save the situation from deteriorating further.

Pakistan has indeed always upheld the cause of national independence and sovereignty of all countries. It has firmly adhered to the policy of peaceful coexistence which alone can insure the safety and security of all nations. It is with this objective that Pakistan has been ceaselessly making all efforts to insure that the differences among nations are resolved peacefully. But when the principles involved and the normal and universally acknowledged political and diplomatic norms are blatantly violated, Pakistan cannot remain a silent spectator. And in the present conflict and crisis, Pakistan is not only the only country which has voiced its feelings of strong resentment. Many countries of the world are strongly in favor of the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan. In fact 104 members of the United Nations, who voted in favor of the UN resolution, specifically voiced their anger over the situation.

And now it is precisely in this context that the Islamic foreign ministers' conference is being held on 26 January in Islamabad to consider how best the Muslim countries can meet the new challenge. The members of the Islamic countries have identical views on matters pertaining to the cause of a Muslim country. The mobilization of the Muslim countries, which began in 1969 after the burning of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, has remained intact. It is therefore hoped that the Islamabad conference, which will be inaugurated by President Ziaul Haq, will decide to take positive measures to safeguard the interest of the Afghan people.